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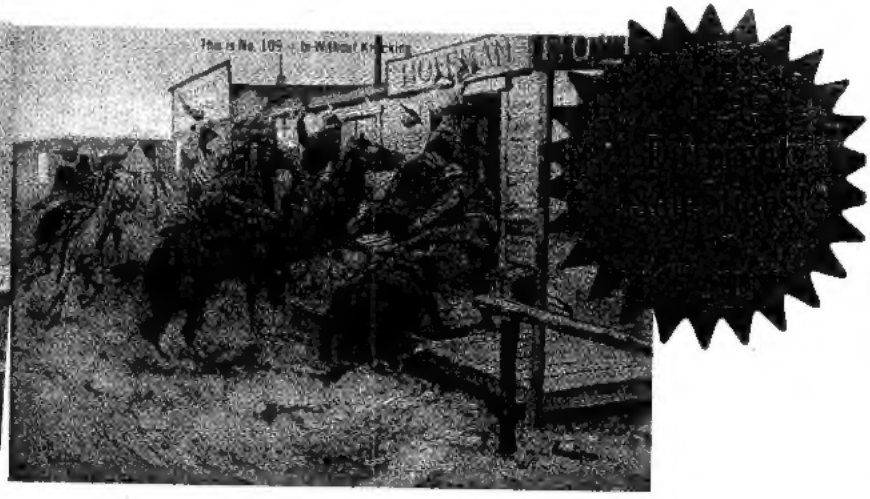

——PICTURE SIZE IS WIDTH BY DEPTH——

1— Ambushed, 11 x 14
2— A Tight Daily & Loose Lodge, 13½ x 9½
3— A Loose Cinch, 11 x 8
4— A Wounded Grizzly, 8½ x 11
5— Buffalo Hunt (spears), 11 x 7½
6— Boss of the Trail Herd, 8 x 10½
7— Bronc to Breakfast, 13½ x 9½
8— Blackfeet Burning Crow Buffalo Range, 15½ x 8
9— Bucking Bronco, 8 x 11½
10— Better Than Bacon, 11 x 8½ (watercolor)
11— On the Move, 13½ x 9½
12— Buffalo Hunt (arrows), 12½ x 8½ (color)
13— On the Trail, 11 x 7½
14— The Pony Raid, 10½ x 8
15— At Close Quarters, 11 x 8½
16— Capturing the Grizzly, 15 x 8½
17— Cinch Ring, 15 x 8½
18— Caught with the Goods, 14 x 9½
19— Cowboy Life, 11 x 14
20— Calf of the Law, 13½ x 9½
21— Carson's Men (Kit Carson) 14 x 9½
22— Return of the Warriors, 13½ x 9½
23— The Water Girl, 9 x 10½ (watercolor)
24— Renegades Return, 13½ x 9½
25— Chief Joseph (Indian Head), 8 x 11 (watercolor)
26— Deadline on the Range, 14 x 9½
27— Disputed Trail, 9½ x 13½
28— Dangerous Cripples, 14 x 9½
29— In the Wake of the Buffalo Runners, 10 x 8
30— Early American, 13½ x 9½
31— Elk in Lake McDonald, 11 x 8½ (watercolor)
32— First Furrow, 8 x 12 (watercolor)
33— First Wagon Tracks, 15 x 8½
34— Finding the Trail, 13½ x 9½
35— Heads or Tails, 15 x 8½
36— Heading the Right Way, 13½ x 9½
37— The Cattle Drive, 13½ x 9½
38— Woman of the Plains, 8 x 6
39— Invocation to the Sun, 13½ x 8½
40— Indian Love Call, 13½ x 9½
41— Jerked Down, 15 x 8½
42— The Jerkline, 14 x 9½
43— Loops & Swift Horses Are Surer Than Lead, 10½ x 7
44— Last Chance or Bust, 12½ x 9
45— Mad Cow, 12 x 8 (watercolor)
46— Wagons Westward, 10½ x 8 (watercolor)
47— The Challenge, 10½ x 6½
48— When Arrows Spell Death, 9 x 7
49— Old Fashioned Stage Coach, 10 x 7 (watercolor)
50— At the End of the Rope, 10½ x 7
51— Prospectors, 10½ x 8
52— Planning the Attack, 14 x 10
53— Pipe of Peace, 14 x 7
54— Who Killed the Bear? 10½ x 7
55— Queens's War Hounds, 14 x 9½
56— Rainy Morning in a Cow Camp, 11 x 8½
57— Roping a Grizzly, 11 x 8½
58— Red Man's Weakness, 14 x 7
59— Roping a Wolf, 11 x 8
60— Smoking Them Out, 11 x 10½
61— Scattering The Riders, 11½ x 8
62— Strenuous Life, 14 x 9½
63— Sun Worshipers, 16 x 10½
64— Serious Predicament, 15 x 8½
65— Single Handed, 14 x 9½
66— Sick Ear, 11½ x 9
67— Smoke of a .45, 12 x 9
68— Sage Brush Sport, 13½ x 8½
69— Signal Fire, 11 x 14
70— When Red Man Talks War, 13½ x 9½
71— In Enemy Country, 13½ x 9½
72— The Medicine Man, 11 x 8½
73— Trail's End, 13½ x 9½
74— The Holdup, 13 x 8
75— The Bolter, 9½ x 13½
76— The Attack, 12 x 8
77— The Drifter, 13½ x 9½
78— The Tenderfoot, 11 x 8
79— Two of a Kind Win, 13½ x 9½
80— Last of 5,000, 8 x 9½ (watercolor)
81— When Tracks Spell Meat, 13½ x 9½
82— When the Nose of a Horse Beats the Eyes of a Man, 13½ x 9½
83— Mandan Buffalo Hunt, 13½ x 9½
84— Wild Horse Hunters (Indians), 12½ x 8 (watercolor)
85— Whose Meat? 13½ x 9½
86— Wagon Boss, 16 x 10½
87— When Mules Wear Diamonds, 13½ x 9½
88— A Crow Chief, 7 x 9 (watercolor)
89— Innocent Allies, 13½ x 9½
90— Where Ignorance is Bliss, 10½ x 8 (watercolor)
91— When Sioux & Blackfoot Meet, 15 x 8½
92— Warning Shadows, 10½ x 7
93— When Horse Flesh Comes High, 15 x 8½
94— Wound Up, 11 x 8½ (watercolor)
95— The Scouts (Indians) 9½ x 7
96— Winter Packet, 9½ x 5 (watercolor)
97— Mourning Her Warrior Dead, 11 x 8½
98— The Buffalo Hunt (1898) 13½ x 9½
99— Cowboy Sport, 13½ x 9½
100— A Desperate Stand, 13½ x 9½
101— Rider of the Rough String, 13½ x 9½
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119— Death of a Gambler, 9½ x 13½
120— Pagan Indian, 9 x 12
121— Russell Letter to a Friend (black and white), 8½ x 11

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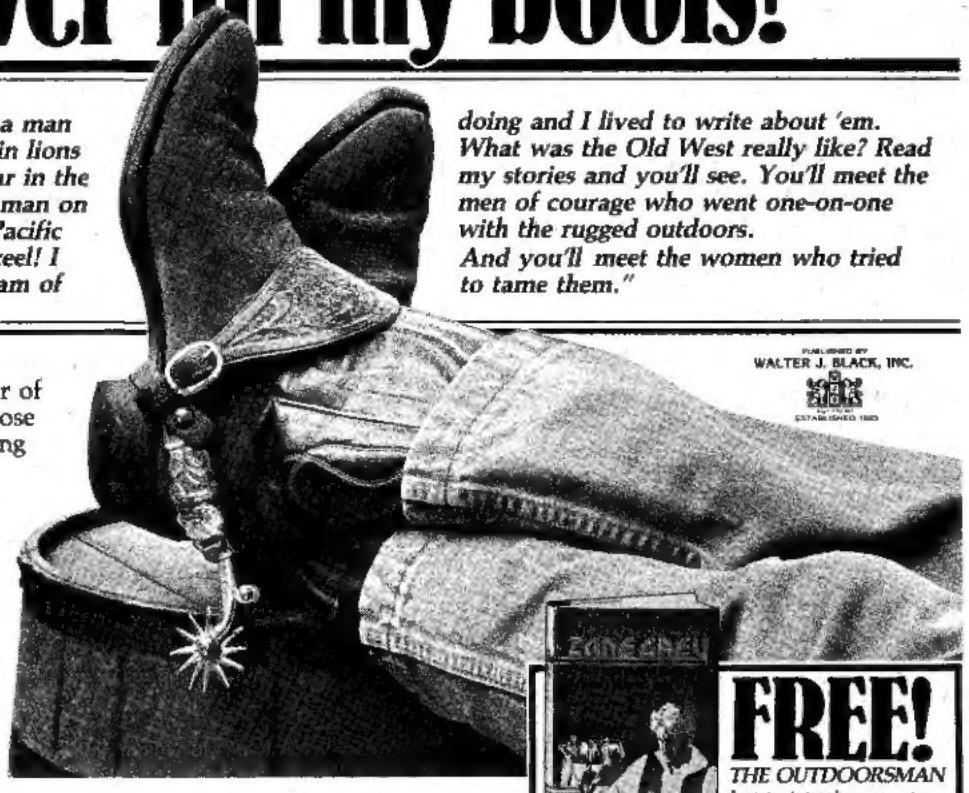

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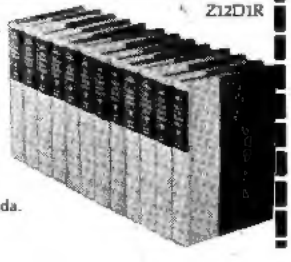

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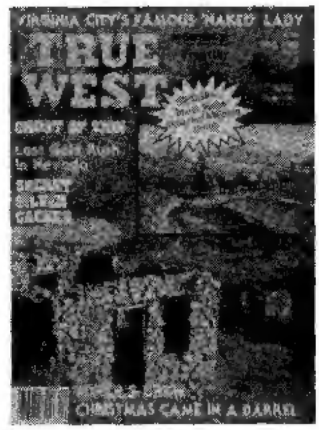

OUR COVER

Something new this issue: Two cover pictures for the price of one! The photo, by photographer Josef Muench of Santa Barbara, California, is of a remnant of Goldroad, Arizona, a ruin found in the Black Mountains along former U.S. Highway 66. The inset painting is by Mel H. Bradshaw, Winslow, Arizona, a frequent contributor to Western Publications.

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From The Editor

This is one of our favorite issues every year because the December issue is always a special on ghost towns, mining and treasure. And this year we've got a cache of goodies for you.

Perhaps a little shocking is the lead story, a tongue-in-cheek piece from Annemarie Berg called "They Came to See the Naked Lady." The miners of the Comstock Lode were titillated for weeks by posters, like the one reprinted with the article, promising full display of an actress named Menken.

There wasn't even standing room at the Virginia City, Nevada, theater the night Menken opened. If the miners did not get exactly what they paid for, they were well satisfied with what they got. But you'll have to read the story to find out what that is.

The Berg story, though humorous, is about one aspect of mining, the entertainment of the miners. The next story, "Beer for the Mining Frontier," also may be put in that category. Because, as author Herman Ronnenberg points out, the main thing a miner wanted after a hard day's work was a cold glass of beer.

The mines in the Coeur d' Alenes in Idaho are the extremely deep shaft mines and anyone who has been near those operations knows just how hard the work is.

Many of us can remember when every large community, and even some small ones like Wallace, Idaho, had a brewery. This story chronicles the demise of two breweries which served the miners in northern Idaho.

In the Christmas spirit is Grace Haynes Jones' warm and wonderful account of how Santa Claus came in a wagon the first year she and her family homesteaded on the Oklahoma prairie. You'll fret along with Grace's mother that Christmas would bypass their home that year.

For treasure buffs, there is Joe Kelly's revelations in "Secret Silver Caches at Cerro Colorado." Somewhere buried beneath the Arizona desert may be two silver hordes: A cache and a mine.

Wayne Christiansen's story, "A Ghost of Zion," tells what happened to the unusual Utah town of Center. Originally the center of mining, the town later served nearby farms and the main store became something of an entertainment hangout early in the 20th Century. But it was the underground Ajax store that makes the story fascinating.

That about summarizes this issue but the calendar folk here at Western Publications wanted me to mention that the 1983 western calendar is available for five bucks, which includes postage.

They've even got a special deal whereby if you subscribe or extend your subscription for one year, you get a free calendar. If you buy a two-year subscription, you also get a 1984 calendar, when it comes out.

Now that ain't bad at all considering you get a baker's dozen (13) top-flight prints by such artists as Joe Rader Roberts, Joe's son, Gary Lynn Roberts, Robert Scott, M.H. Bradshaw, and Russell E. Hill.

Before I close I also want to mention that three of us fellas from Western Publications, Chet Krause, owner and assistant publisher, Tom Theige, and myself attended the National Association for Outlaw and Lawmen History rendezvous last summer in Billings, Montana.

Chet got a "Friend of NOLA" plaque, so did Tom, and I got some mighty fine collectibles done by San Fransisco artist Richard Hart.

Next year, the NOLA rendezvous is tentatively scheduled Aug. 3-6, at the Holiday Inn in Cheyenne, Wyoming, so start planning now.

Til the January issue, when we'll devote much of the issue to outlaws and lawmen, keep the latch string out.

Lenore Conway, Sacramento, California, vice-president-West of the National Association for Outlaw and Lawman History, presented a "Friend of NOLA" plaque to Chet Krause, owner and assistant publisher of Western Publications, for the help TRUE WEST and OLD WEST magazines have given the organization the past several years. The award was made at the NOLA rendezvous in Billings, Montana, last summer.

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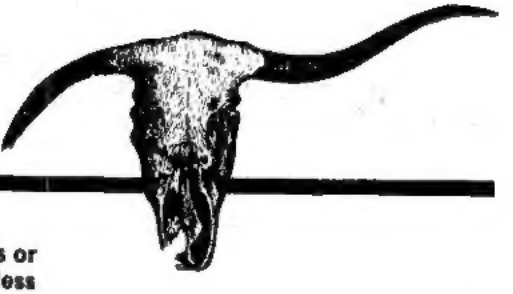

Your letters and comments are welcome. Please keep letters to 300 words or less. All letters received by TRUE WEST will be considered for publication unless otherwise stipulated in the letter. Space does not permit us to print all letters we receive. Be sure to include full name, address and zip code. Address letters to TRUE WEST, Iola, Wis. 54990.

Youngest Daughter of Tom Curtis

The April 1982 issue of TRUE WEST has just been brought to my attention, and having been apprised of its publication, I have been unsuccessful in obtaining copies as they are all gone.

I am the youngest daughter of Tom Curtis in the story, "The Posse that Killed." I knew Ben Kemp, as a child, but I have never heard of Eve Ball, although I think this is the truest version of the many that I have heard over the years.

My father died in 1966, at the age of 89, always an honest man, and a man with many friends. He would have appreciated this, I am sure, and so I thank you.

Please advise if it is possible for you to help me get some issues as I have two brothers and a sister who would like them. -- Janie Curtis Steele, 2600 E. 4th Ave., £44, Flagstaff, Arizona 86001.

Still Reading at 90

I have been reading TRUE WEST for six years. I was born near Challis, Idaho, on Lost River, not far from Sun Valley. Three sisters and one brother were born in Philadelphia. My mother came through on a stage coach to my father in Challis.

My husband knew Sheriff Graham at Colville, Washington. In fact, we knew all of his family. We lived there nine years. We also lived in Hunters, Washington. We heard of murders at Cedoni, which you mentioned in past editions.

Wish we could sit and chat. I am 90 years old. My folks, three sisters, and one brother came to Washington in covered wagons in 1900. -- Ida Wyatt, Camas, Washington.

Courtesy David L. Mitchell

Fred Cline beside a buck he roped.

My Friend Fred

I am enclosing a picture of an old cowboy friend of mine with a buck deer he roped on the Yolo Ranch northeast of Prescott, Arizona about 50 or 75 miles, depending on what camp you were at.

I never knew Fred to ride a real good horse, but he mostly was in the right place at the right time to do what he wanted to do.

He could use a reata. It didn't matter to Fred. I was running the deer, but I was riding a half-broke bronco and I could not get close enough for a throw. But I put him up over a ridge to Fred.

Fred had some cattle of his own in Scotts Basin when I first knew him. He surely must have known something about training dogs as he really had some good ones that could handle wild cattle. He even had a little yellow rat terrier trained to heel.

I think Fred has been dead for a good many years, and I am not young anymore.

I bought a farm here in Pennsylvania and raised a family. I paid for my farm with draft horses, mostly all Belgians. -- David L. Mitchell, Box 38, Callensburg, Pennsylvania 16213.

Society Uses TRUE WEST

Your April issue of TRUE WEST carried a letter in Trails Grown Dim about my Byars ancestor. Thanks to your publication and reader response, I have learned a great deal about my great-grandfather Daniel Webster Byars.

We place our copies of your publication in our Leon County Historical and Genealogical Research Center in Centerville, Texas. Some of your readers may want to send a SASE to this center for information on Leon County.

Our Leon County Genealogical Society members all look in TRUE WEST magazines for information. Your April issue also carried a story about Erath County, Texas. The Keiths in that story were related to one of our members and she was delighted to add it to her family file.

Thank you for a fine magazine so many enjoy and which helps so many.

If you think our Research Center worth mentioning, we will be happy to answer all letters that have a SASE attached. -- Mrs. Clovis Byars Herring, Rt. 1, Box 123A, Buffalo, Texas 75831.

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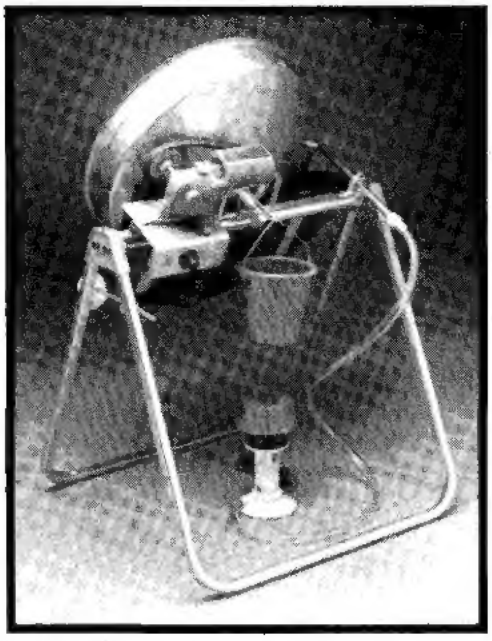

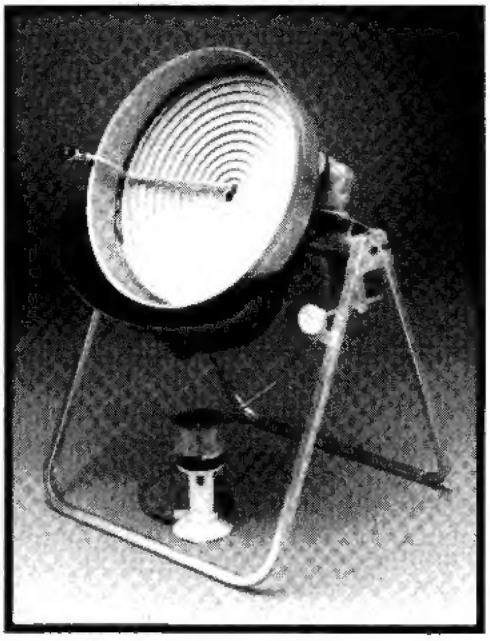

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Hosstail's Small Talk

THERE'S not a whole lot that can be written about a trip you didn't take. It sort of grieved me to miss a little vacation that Chet Krause, Liz and I had been planning to take from Billings, Montana, to some mighty scenic mountain spots in Wyoming. We had planned to head back toward Montana, see the Custer Battlefield and head on to the Black Hills in South Dakota.

A couple of weeks before we were to make the trip my new ailment flared and stayed flared. I call it "new ailment" for want of a better handle since this plaqued food allergy is as old as I am. The thing that makes me so mad with it is that it has affected my central nervous system — and that ain't fun! I've had the stuff all my life and called it "stomach trouble."

It's kind of hard to believe, but doctors never gave much priority to food allergies in the past. Fact is, they just now are making some break-throughs that might take care of this mean devil in the future.

For many years people have known they couldn't eat certain foods. For the most part, they simply marked off these foods as flat pizen to their system and let it go at that. I don't understand yet what they do well enough to explain it myself. They have antigens now that gradually persuade your system to handle these particular foods again, but it is really a long, bloody row to hoe.

After telling you about my eye surgery troubles and other miseries that gnaw at a man's frame as he grows older, I had figured to spare you the news of any more ailments other than maybe the final one. But, knowing that I would have to have a mighty powerful excuse to not have a story about all the goodies we experienced in three states during the latter part of July, I have decided to stick to the truth and give you a short explanation.

The "short" means that I am going to spare you as many of the details as possible because a man talking about his ailments can get to be full reading in a hurry! So I'll just explain briefly and then add a short piece and maybe I can fill the page out at least.

Some people don't know what it is to be unable to digest food. If you are not one of those, give thanks every night because you have been spared a tremendous amount of misery.

In my case, it seemed that things that usually helped in my stomach troubles suddenly didn't help at all and I got worse and worse. I have never felt so badly for such a long period of time in all my life. My home doctor finally decided that my troubles came from a strong case of food allergy and he sent me up to the little hill town of Fredericksburg, Texas, to see what the reknowned Dr. Dor Brown could do about it.

I am still taking some antigens that Dor started me on over 20 years ago — and it still works!

Dor put me through a three-day testing period and found out that I had food allergies enough to finally kill most any cuss. Wheat. Can you imagine anybody being unable to eat **anything** with the least bit of wheat in it? You find out in a hurry that there is even wheat in cornbread and a long list of other things that you had never dreamed carried this particular element. Add potatoes, beef, milk, eggs and about a dozen more foods and you begin to get the picture.

This ailment, if you have it bad enough, will flat kill you. One woman told us about her husband having to bring her into Dor's office in his arms. She was suffering from oranges. Today that woman is the picture of good health.

Well, I promised to cut this short. I have made some improvement, so maybe they found the patient before it was too late to close the corral gate.

Maybe if I can keep improving, we'll be able to take a short run somewhere before cold weather sets in. I just don't feel like the year has been rounded out if I don't get to prowl around some of those western states. Some of you older readers will remember accounts of trips that the Small family made all over the West. It is fast becoming spoiled by man and I urge all of you to see just as much of our beautiful West that you can before the grim hand of commercialism does it in.

Oh yes, Chet came down to Austin and we had several good bull sessions. That was good for me. Chet seems to have a way of lifting my spirits when they need it most.

Now I'll just add a short piece and let her go for this time.

What Is It?

A. D. Bohn wrote me about a gun he has that needs identifying. He writes:

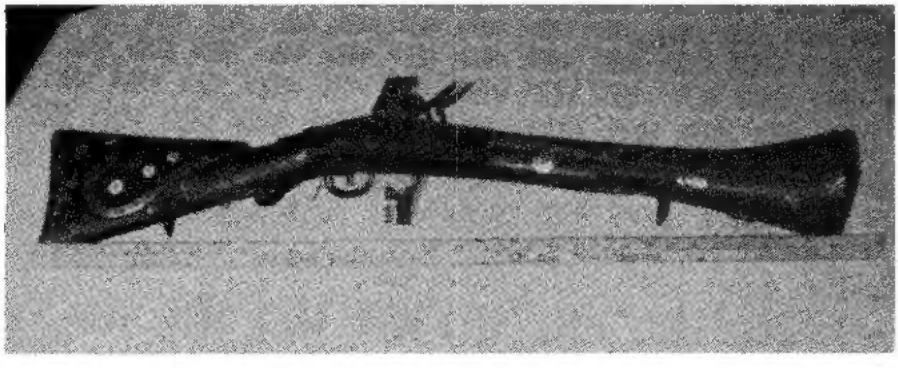
"Am sending a picture of a gun which I would like to learn more about.

"It is a flintlock with a four-and-a-half-inch muzzle and an overall length of thirty-four-and-a-half inches. Designs are brass. It is in fine condition. I am told that the Spanish brought this gun across in 1600.

"Maybe your readers can tell me more about this interesting firearm. Write A. D. Bohn, 514 Chestnut, Clayton, NM 88415."

Okay, it is up to you gun cranks now.

I've plumb run out of ammunition. Will try and be right here next month. — Hosstail.



A. D. Bohn's Spanish rifle.

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THE ACTRESS WHO STRUCK IT RICH WITH COMSTOCK LODE MINERS

By Annemarie Berg

"SAY, JAKE, you think that there actress is really stark nekkid when she's tied on that hoss' back?" A be-whiskered miner raptly studied the flamboyant poster in front of Maguire's New Opera House. Bold black letters under the picture stated that Adah Isaacs Menken would be "stripped to the buff" in the daring play "Mezeppa" when it came to Virginia City, Nevada.

Jake, equally be-whiskered, studied the titilating picture. "Don't see how the law would 'low her to be plumb nekkid. They do say when she put on that show in New York City women fainted dead away, and them as didn't faint walked out with their hankychiefs over their eyes."

His sun-seamed face beamed at the thought. Absent-mindedly he scratched a thick mat of unwashed hair, disturbing small wildlife that dwelt therein. Both men waited patiently in a slowly shortening line. All the tonsorial parlors in town had struck it rich. Every miner and prospector in Washoe suddenly needed a shave, haircut and some fancy smelling water for the arrival of the beautiful and scandalous Menken, leading lady of the American stage.

When Jake finally sank into a still-warm vacant chair, the barber cast a professional glance at the hairy head. "You ain't been in for ages, Jake," he commented acidly. "Guess you wouldn't be in now if you hadn't heard that actress has the prettiest shape in America."

"Wal, it'll shore be a treat to see some purty female legs," Jake sighed. "I bin out in the mountains so long even my old mule's legs wuz beginning to look kinda good to me."

"That young reporter for *The Enterprise*, Mark Twain, just came back from San Francisco," the barber went on, "And he says she got $500 each performance for sixty nights. Why, they don't even pay men that much!"

"Men ain't that purty," observed Jake drily.

What had Virginia City and the entire territory of Nevada all adither that March of 1864 was the coming appearance of the famous "Naked Lady." One hundred and twenty five pounds of charm and intriguing beauty, she was going to perform in the elegant, newly-carpeted opera house. Tom McGuire, who also owned the opera house in San Francisco, regularly sent his finest theatrical troupes over the mountains to the "Silver City."

Courtesy California State Library

Adah Menken
Miners' sex symbol.

The bustling mining camp appreciated entertainment of every type and could well afford the very best for silver grew wild in the mountains. Sometimes as many as five Shakespearean companies competed with six or seven troupes of mummers, dog and pony shows, jugglers and minstrels, all in town at once.

BUT "MAZEPPA" was something different. Every performance in San Francisco had been sold out before the star arrived in the city. Each night the house, like her famous pink tights, was filled to the bursting point. So what if the New York papers did refer to "Mazeppa" as "the worst play ever written" and said Adah was "an actress of little talent."

Lu Menken, with the small waist and long slim legs, tied on the back of the "Wild Horse of Tartary" (instead of the usual dummy) was caried to the pinnacle of success. She was the highest paid actress on the stage.

Naturally, she was also the most talked about. No woman had ever before appeared on stage in tights or created an illusion of nudity. As a matter of fact, theatrical history credits her with being the first burlesque queen. Her daring display and exquisite face accounted solely for the triumph of the atrocious play "Mazeppa."

Virginia City had avidly kept up with every detail of her well-publicized life. They knew she was shocking; wore her curly black hair cut short like a boy; used make-up and smoked in public and had even been known to wear men's trousers on occasion. She was accompanied by an inconspicuous third husband in a day when most women were grateful for one.

Strangely enough, Joe Goodman, owner-editor of The Territorial Enterprise, together with Dan De Quille, one of his editors, and Mark Twain, star reporter, all took a dislike to the free-wheeling actress before she arrived.

Though Mark had been in San Fransisco during the run of "Mazeppa," he had not seen the play. Now he contemptuously referred to her as "a circus rider who belonged under canvas – not at Maguire's."

Goodman promised they would be there opening night in the free seats reserved for the press. He muttered darkly about "roasting her good" in the paper.

They Came To See

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Courtesy California State Library

This titillating poster drew a full house.

OPENING night found the three in "pressman's pew," wits and pencils sharpened for the assault. The opera house was a packed mass of humanity. Everyone sat patiently studying the artistic oil painting on the magnificent curtain. About the time everyone had had his fill of "Sunset on Lake Tahoe," the curtain rose, gas flares dimmed, music faded and the play began.

And then something happened: Enchantment drifted across the flickering footlights caressing the cynical newsmen and encompassing diamond-studded gamblers and weather-beaten prospectors. It crept over the jam-packed crowd to the farthest reaches of the theater as a vibrant, melodious voice spoke to each man only.

An adept charmer, with instinctive but practiced abandon, Adah responded to the lonely, women-starved men, sweeping through their hearts like a desert wind.

If the slender figure made too-wide and sweeping gestures, bounded about the stage too vigorously and over-dramatized her simplest speech, what matter? Like a shot of Washoe's raw whiskey, she filled them with a warm and mellow glow. The audience sat enthralled.

At last the climax! The famous nude ride. As the curtains rose slowly, it showed a wooden runway disguised as a Rocky Mountain trail. Zig-zagging back and forth across the stage, up and up, it rose from the footlights to disappear in painted mountain tops high in the flies. This was the scene where Adah, as the Tartar prince Mazeppa, stripped and lashed to the back of a fiery wild steed, was driven into the mountains to die.

Adah Menken, looking beautiful and sultry, as she appeared at the height of her career in Paris.

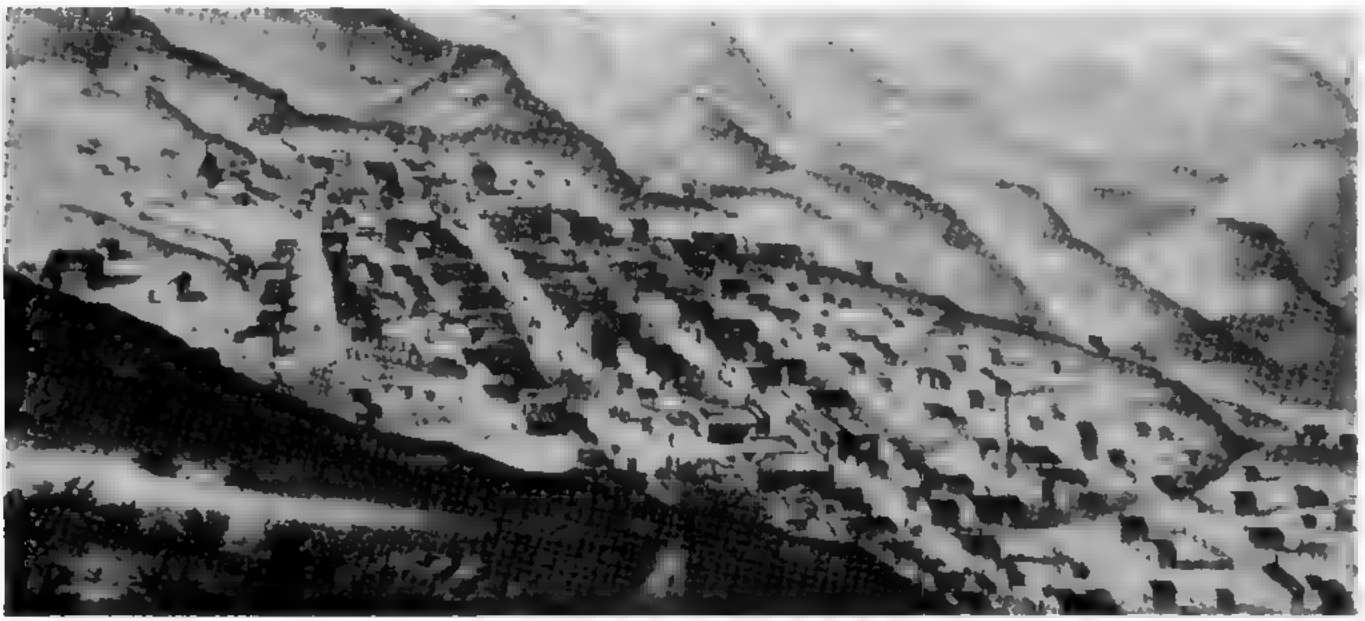
Even Adah's severest critics could not deny her courage for the runway was narrow, high and terribly dangerous. A slip of the horse's hooves could mean injury or even death.

Fierce guards tied Adah to the horse's back, careful not to interspace themselves between her and the eager audience. Slowly the huge black horse began the ascent. There was no nonsense about a "pawing, wild stallion" as depicted on the posters, but the hollow clatter of hooves on the runway sounded ominous.

The audience held its collective breath. Back and forth, up and up the two went, giving everyone a chance to see Adah in the famous pink silk fleshings with "a little bit of dimity nothing around her waist." The miners now realized that "in the buff" was only bluff and they took it good-naturedly.

After the final curtain, Goodman and cohorts dashed for the newspaper office. Each outdid the other rhapsodizing over Adah.

"The race of infatuated pens was on" and for days the smitten men flooded the paper with such torrid praise that a



Courtesy Bancroft Library

Virginia City, Nevada, as it looked about the time Adah Menken played there.

disgusted fellow editor from California commented: "The editors of The Enterprise have gone crazy -- but they didn't have far to go."

Mark Twain fell even harder under her spell when he discovered Adah had intelligence to match her beauty, and that she aspired to be a poetess. The two spent many hours exchanging writing for each other's criticism. Mark complimented her if rather inelegantly by referring to her as "a literary cuss."

The miners adored her. To their delight she rode her horse astride, gambled openly and freely and lost as gamely as she won. Taking part in the night life of the Comstock, she went from bar to saloon to dance hall on the arms of the handsomest men in town.

The Sazerac Saloon hung her picture back of their bar alongside that of her second husband, John "Benecia Boy" Heenan, heavyweight boxing champion of America. There was no rancor in Menken's heart as she gayly toasted Heenan. After all, hadn't she once said "Marry young and often?" She was doing her best.

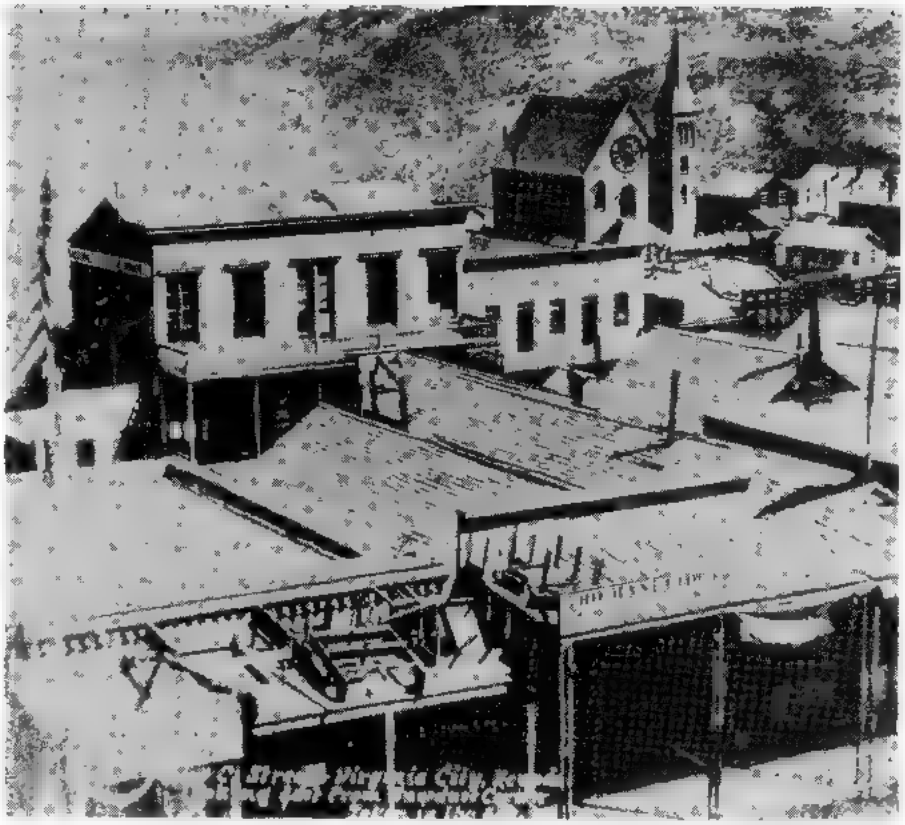
Under the flattering attention of her Enterprise admirers, Adah became fired with the idea of settling down in Virginia City and writing a novel.

To discuss this matter, she invited Mark Twain and De Quille to her suite. As they sat about the dining table, talk and champagne flowed freely. Snuggled on Adah's lap was her constant and adored companion, a small lap-dog, which she fed generously on brandy-soaked sugar cubes.

At one point the inebriated little pooch slipped off Adah's lap and approached Twain's leg under the table. Some historians intimate the dog lifted his leg against Mark's trousers. Others claim the dog merely took a nip out of his leg. Whichever it was, Twain resented such familiarity from a canine and retaliated with a hearty kick under the cover of the tablecloth.

Alas for Mark! His aim was bad. His foot landed forcibly against one of the most famous legs in America. Adah rose from her chair like a rocket and howled in agaony. The small dog howled in sympathy.

Amidst the bedlam, the distracted journalist apologized profusely and seized the golden opportunity of rubbing the injured shin. Adah, never one to carry a grudge, quickly forgave Mark but a damper had fallen on the party. It broke up and writing a novel was never again mentioned.



Courtesy Bancroft Library

View of Virginia City in 1865 showing Maguire's Opera House in background at left.

Virginia City Engine Company Number One made Adah an honorary member and a lucky fireman was chosen to fasten a silver embossed red leather belt around her tiny waist.

The miners took to naming everything after La Menken -- streets, mines, babies, and even mules. A corporation formed The Menken Shaft and Tunnel Company. Eyebrows must have gone up two points on the various exchanges when stock certificates were received that featured a naked lady on a galloping stallion. Adah received 100 founder's shares which she promptly sold.

The roaring energy of Virginia City with its rumbling ore wagons and constant shrilling of steam whistles from the crushers, a life that never stopped night or day, found an echo in the vital, undisciplined La Belle Menken.

She had a natural, easy camaraderie with "her boys," and time slipped away too soon. But the world beyond the Comstock clamored for the "Naked Lady." London and Paris were making exorbitant offers. It was time for Menken to move on.

After her last performance the miners presented her with a bar of pure silver worth $2,000. In the past they had shown appreciation of performers by showering them with silver coins or nuggets but lately there had been a few unfortunate incidents. A safer method of esteem had been devised. A bar of silver bullion, properly inscribed, made performers much happier than dodging flying silver, no matter how well-intentioned.

Adah was a hard act to follow. No one ever superceded her in the miner's hearts. She promised "her boys" she would return. She loved them all and she meant it sincerely -- at the time.

For the next couple of years London, Paris, and Vienna worshipped at her shrine. Then the flaming star went into descent. Adah's miners would have understood only too well what happened. She had struck a rich lode in "Mazeppa" but now, like their own fabulous silver strikes, it had petered out. Only four years after her Comstock triumph she died in Paris, penniless and alone.

The miners, who remained true to the memory of their Adah, are long gone now. But somewhere in a deserted and forgotten corner of Nevada in an old abandoned silver mine once named for her and high in the White Pine Range, 9,000 feet above sea level, frigid mountain winds obliterate the once-booming mining camp called Menken.

ELECTRONIC [illegible] HIBITED

Beer for the Mining Frontier

Two Breweries Served Idaho's Famed Coeur d'Alenes

BY NELL SIMCOX

SINCE the earliest days of hardrock mining, when a man finished a shift in the mines of Idaho's rich Coeur d'Alene region, what he really wanted was beer and lots of good beer.

Two breweries in Wallace, Idaho, in the Coeur d'Alene district, survived flood, shootings, and forest fires to provide that beer. As with many other small breweries throughout the West, it took Prohibition to turn them to making that sissy stuff, soda pop.

Carl Mallon was a German-born brewer of the old school: A man whose fine character was reflected in the beer he brewed. He came to the Couer d'Alene region in 1883, as the gold rush was in full swing, and settled the next year at the mining camp of Murray.

At Murray, he brewed that frontier standard, "Steam Beer," a San Francisco invention. Steam beer is fermented warm and comes out dark and foamy. Mallon also ran a bottling works in the days when most brewers thought bottling was beneath their dignity.

By 1890, it was clear that nearby Wallace was to be the supply center for the whole region and brewer Mallon decided to relocate.

THE TRAIL to Wallace was still deep with snow in March of 1890, when Mallon wallowed through. Once in Wallace, he quickly found a suitable site at the base of a mountain and set three men to work clearing the immense cedars.

Wallace was exuberant; "What surer sign of prosperity could one ask for?" the local paper proclaimed. In those days a town knew it had a future if a brewery opened.

While digging an area for a fire-proof cellar, a naturally carbonated mineral spring was discovered. Mallon was selling "Edanha" mineral water before his first beer was ready for sale.

By April 1891, "the only home-made beer" in town was advertised. The traditional German post-lenten treat, bock beer (the paper called it "Buck," a common error) also was readied for a May 1 delivery date. Soon Mallon dubbed his beer "Home Industry" and his advertisments stressed the need to buy products made locally.

As with most small frontier breweries, the establishment soon added a saloon to the premises. Cigars, liquor, wines and free lunch — the usual inducements at western saloons — were always on

Tray showing Sunset Brewing Co. emblem displayed at the mining museum in Wallace, Idaho.

hand.

In winter, the practice at the saloon was to drink "mulled" or "poker" beer. That's a glass of beer into which a red hot poker is thrust. The flavor of Mallon's brew was said to be unsurpassed as a mulled beer.

ON THE NIGHT of November 28, 1892, "unknown" parties broke into the saloon section of the brewery and carted off a new $175 cash register.

It was taken beyond the Northern Pacific train depot and demolished. An estimated $36 was taken. No arrests were made but the newspaper reported "this is the crime for which four men were requested to leave town." Frontier justice prevailed.

The Mallon brewery site was several hundred feet west of the Sixth Street Bridge over Placer Creek. Ordinarily the spot is high and dry but on Sunday, November 15, 1896, the sky opened and a deluge followed. Placer Creek became a torrent.

Local men toiled all night to free the water-borne timbers and stumps that kept clogging the channel. Their best efforts could not confine the flood and the water swept into the brewery. Also flooded was the nearby Coeur d'Alene Steam Laundry.

Mallon's loss was estimated at $10,000, the greatest of anyone in town. The newspaper reported "Mallon's brewery was so badly damaged that it is about worthless."

Mallon was not the type to cry over spilled milk. He quickly renovated the premises and was back in business.

In those days before automation, a brewer's job was strenuous. Stirring boiling brew kettles, heavy lifting in ice houses and hours filling out government tax forms were all a part of the profession.

Somehow Mallon still found time to belong to nearly every fraternal organization in town and to serve his community as fire chief.

At the fire department's Christmas party in 1902, the men gave Mallon three cheers for a job well done. Mallon was 58 at that time and in failing health.

The opening of a competing brewery in Wallace and his poor health led him to close his business and retire.

He died two years later. Wallace gave him the grandest funeral in its history. The Elks, Eagles, Foresters, Lady Macabees, Ancient Order of United Workmen, and the fire department all honored him. His obituary took half of the front page of the local newspaper. Wallace's pioneer brewer and first citizen was gone.

BUT WALLACE'S miners were not to be denied their beer. Even before Mallon closed, the new Sunset Brewery Company opened. When Sunset Beer hit town in April 1901, Wallace's saloonkeepers were less than ecstatic.

"The Sunset Beer came out Monday. Is fair Beer fore a starte but in quallity behind Seattle or Henco. It is a verry light Beer resembling the Seattle closer than aney other kind but not near as good," wrote Clem and William Weyer to their beer supplier from Spokane, P.Martin.

"Of course," they went on, "they give

Courtesy Bernard-Stockbridge Collection

Nine men enjoy hearty drafts of Sunset beer in this vintage photo.

Courtesy Bernard Stockbridge Collection

This photo (the glass negative was damaged) appeared in a Wallace newspaper in 1909, showing the Sunset Brewing Co.

a lott of free Beer for the first Day so consequentley the most of Men speake well of it but what the think I do not know. but I am shure et will not give sadesfaction, onless the present quallity be improved."

The quality of the beer must have improved, for Sunset and its successor companies lasted until 1947. It finally succumbed to competition of national brewers in an age when local breweries were closing in droves.

Another former Wallace fire chief, Jacob Lockman, and two Spokane liquor wholesalers founded the Sunset Company. They built a four-story plant with a capacity of 33 barrels per brew. In 1906, they added an artificial ice machine.

ALL WAS NOT work and profit in the brewery business. In 1904, a bizarre homicide took place when night watchman William Murphy shot former employee Paul Graff.

In the early morning of October 10, Murphy ran across the street from the brewery to the house of brewery engineer Fred Inman.

"Fred get up, there's somebody robbing the office," Murphy shouted.

Before Inman could get up, he heard two shots and a moment later two more. Inman jumped to the window and Murphy yelled to him, "Fred, watch the front and I will go around back."

Inman heard another shot and Murphy ran to the front saying, "I got one of them Fred, but I don't know where the other went to."

Night officer Quinn soon showed up and he and Murphy went behind the brewery office to see who had been shot. Murphy came running back again to Inman with the report: "My God, Fred, I have killed Paul."

Paul Graff was the brother-in-law of brewer manager Homer Brown. Graff had been employed off and on for years. He had quit shortly before that night but no one asked him to turn in his key.

Earlier that evening he mentioned

getting some faro cards from the brewery office and, before dying, said he was there getting his mail.

The coroner's jury the next day ruled the shooting was justifiable homicide. But few of the inconsistencies in the various stories of the event were resolved. At the inquest the father of the dead man asked, "Mr. Murphy, are you instructed by the Sunset Brewery to shoot any man that comes there at night?"

THIS EVENT somewhat diminished the brewery's reputation, but the next tragedy to befall the company nearly destroyed it.

In the summer of 1910, 100-degree temperatures combined with lack of rain and high winds created conditions for one of the greatest forest fires on the North American continent.

Vast forest areas burned across northern Idaho and Montana. Smoke was carried in thick billows all the way to eastern Canada and over the Atlantic Ocean.

On August 23, the fire swept into Wallace. Two boxcars full of malt, two of sugar, and two of corn grits on a siding in front of the brewery caught fire. This ignited the loading platform. Soon the brewery was ablaze.

A passing man rescued a dog from the engine room. All else was lost. Two thousand barrels of beer were destroyed. The foaming brew ran into the street and the fire-fighters worked knee-deep in beer suds. The $75,000 plant was reduced to bare brick walls by day's end.

Wallace Mayor Hanson declared martial law and forbade the drinking of city water which had become polluted. He defied the Sunday closing law and the Sheriff and ordered all saloons to stay open to dispense beer.

The thirsty fire-fighters were saved from the threat of typhoid by drinking beer as long as the supply lasted.

THE BREWERY, using the same old walls, spent $50,000 reoutfitting. Brewery capacity was increased to 100 barrels a day and storage was set up to 3,000 barrels. Another setback occurred during cleanup operations in October when carpenter Erich Nelson fell to his death while working there.

In April of 1912, the first new brew of Sunset Beer was back on the market. But it was not long before the owners felt they made a mistake to rebuild.

In 1915, state-wide Prohibition came to Idaho. Even "near beer" was ruled illegal by the state supreme court. The Sunset Company switched to soda and ice manufacturing. During the 1920s, it was known as Sunset Merchantile.

Illegal beer was hard to come by during Prohibition but stronger illegal beverages were available everywhere. The miner's learned to slake their thirsts on these harder drinks.

In the 1930s, the company reopened but was never a financial success. After several name changes and company reorganizations, the plant closed for good in 1947.

The Couer d'Alenes is still one of the richest mining regions on Earth and thousands of men still build great thirsts while working far below ground. But Sunset Beer isn't there to drink now. The frontier tradition of the local brewery is a thing of the past.

The Sunset Brewery was still smoldering the day after it burned on Aug. 20, 1910.

Books

A Concoction Made of Chicory?

Joseph G. Rosa's new book, *The West of Wild Bill Hickok*, is one of the major western history books of 1982. Most reviewers have lauded it highly including two of the three reviewers who wrote for us. Here are three reviews by writers who are very familiar with the Hickok story, with Rosa and his works.

THE WEST OF WILD BILL HICKOK. *By Joseph G. Rosa. University of Oklahoma Press, Norman, Oklahoma 73019. 1982. 223 pp. $24.95.*

This book is pictorially oriented. The text is basically a condensation of the author's past writings on Hickok's life. On a pedestrian level it is fun to browse through. However, anyone well-versed in the finer points of photographia will come away with, at best, a bemused attitude, and, at worst, an awareness of the lack of knowledge it's author evinces in that area.

Little -- pro or con -- can be said in regard to the photos that merely carry captions. In some cases though Rosa presumes to play Sherlock Holmes and extenda those captions into several errors of fact and reasoning. He reveals himself thereby to be a bungling cinematic Doctor Watson, rather than the "master of deduction."

Unfortunately, this may not be readily apparent to the general reader. Thus a few examples of are in order. Due to the limitations of space the reviewer has endeavored to make his choices as representative as possible, choosing from among those of which he has personal familiarity.

On page 116, Rosa refers to a "notorious" photo bearing the inscription, "Sincerely J.B. Hickok." He frivolously declares this to be a forgery.

This reviewer happens to own the curio in question. Rosa is aware of this ownership through correspondence with the reviewer. Nevertheless, preferring to remain cloaked in vagueness, he mentions this not at all. A convenient omission to say the least, since in those communications this reviewer refuted his forgery postulations.

It can be inferred that Rosa has abandoned those theories as being hasty and uninformed. They do not appear in the book. Instead he depends solely on convolutions -- involving a similar unsubstantiated charge against a document owned by the Kansas State Historical Society -- to bolster his views.

This so-called forgery is brought up again on page 139. Only this time, Rosa says it is "apparently a facsimile." The photo itself he describes as "retouched" and "mounted on a card." This description is at variance with its actual physical appearance. Having never been exposed to the rare original item, Rosa inexplicably opts for a fallacious invention.

Page 153 and 154 find Rosa gratuitously introducing an effort on his part to prove that a photograph of an "unknown miner" is not Hickok. The "miner" incidentally bears an unquestionable facial resemblance to Wild Bill. Comparing this photo with a well-known photo of Hickok, Rosa feels:

"The differences are obvious...when the two photographs are reporduced to the same scale -- Hickok is a head taller than his 'namesake.'"

His idea of "scale" ignores any and all consideration for perspective, an unknown quantity that could only be arrived at with any surety in a controlled situation. As for instance, a police line-up photograph.

Rosa, the self-proclaimed expert on facsimiles and forgeries, treats an obviously facsimiled and reapportioned show poster (page 167) as a separate item. This is made all the more ironic since he has reproduced the authentic poster on the facing page.

In the legitimate show bill, Wild Bill is billed third -- following Buffalo Bill Cody and Texas Jack Omohundro. Not realizing the abridged version is bogus (it eliminates the other characters), Rosa, seizing this "opportunity" to gush over his hero at the expense of Buffalo Bill, states:

"The poster...is interesting because it suggests that Hickok was an even bigger attraction at that time than Cody. This was probably so because, despite his theatrical fame, Cody had only a limited frontier reputation, whereas Hickok was known nationwide -- if not

(Continued on Page 49)

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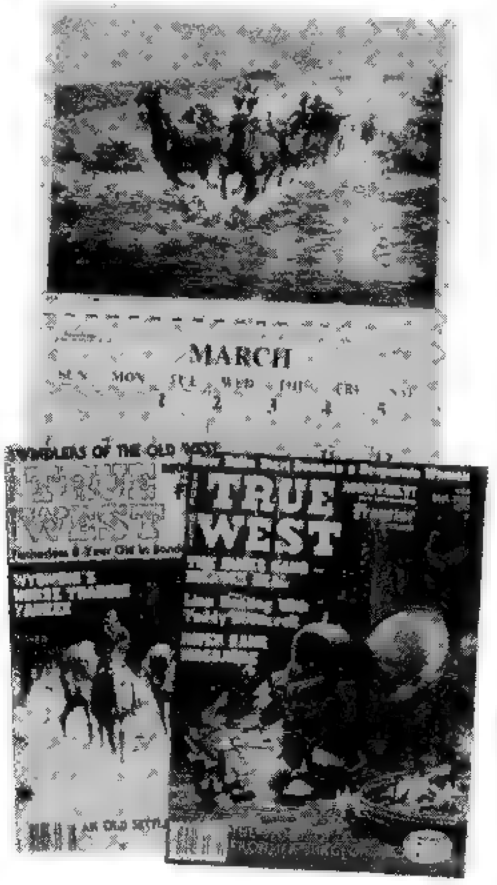

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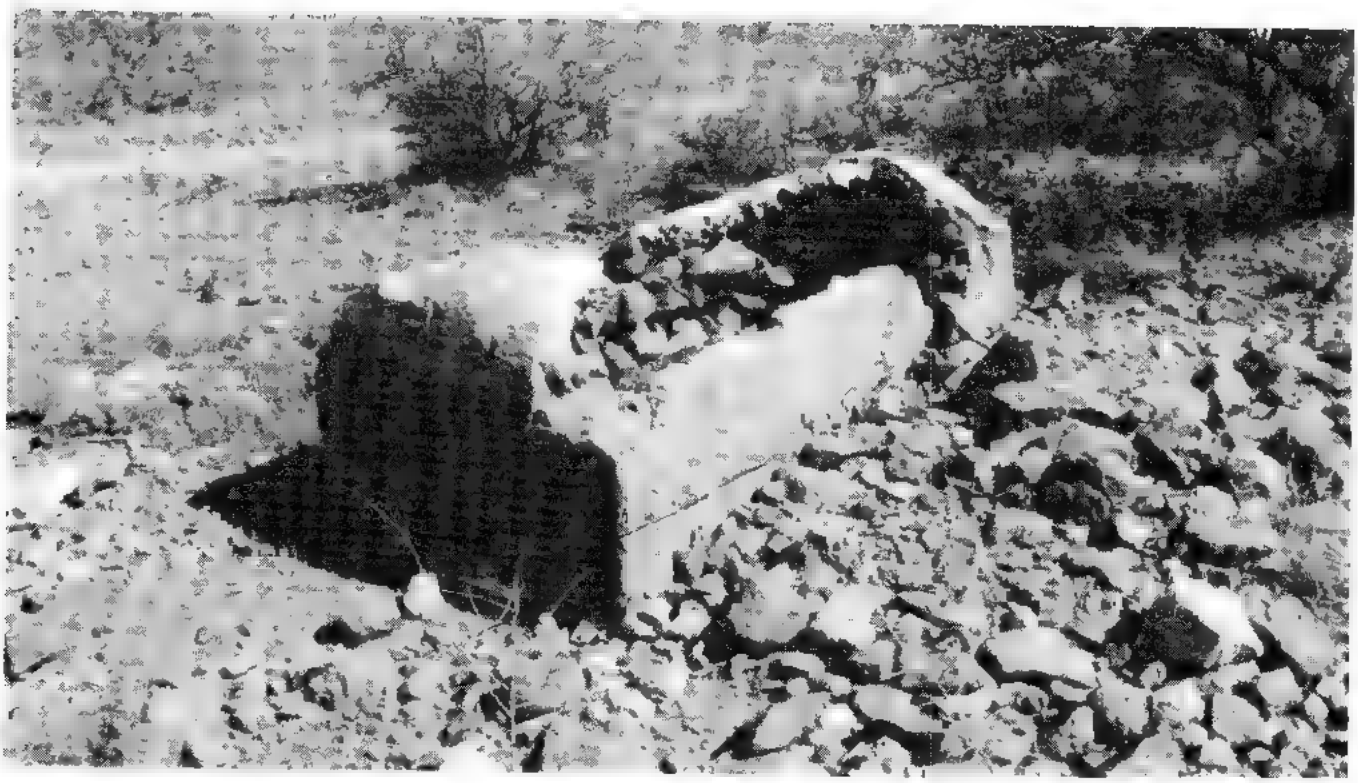

Photo supplied by author

Broken crypt of John Poston, one of the crumbling ruins at Arizona's Cerro Colorado. Beyond the crypt, in the shadow of the mesquite tree are two piles of rock believed to be graves of two German engineers who were murdered by Mexican bandits when Poston was killed.

Secret Silver Caches

Forgotten dreams, forgotten graves -- all that remains of the boomtown of Cerro Colorado, Arizona. It is fast disappearing into dust under the relentless desert sun.

By Joseph F. Kelly

Photos Courtesy of
Arizona Historical Society

Once it was the home of several hundred miners, eager to dig the rich silver ore that seemed to be everywhere. Now, the men who worked there are ignored by historians. The silver veins have been worked out or lost. The adobe buildings are returning to the earth from which they came.

Cerro Colorado was once famous as the center of a new "El Dorado." It should be honored by the State of Arizona as a historical site. Instead it is an unmarked dump, the victim of vandals.

AFTER THE Gadsden Purchase added the part of Arizona south of the Gila River to the United States, an early traveler through the region was Charles D. Poston.

Poston was beginning a life-long association with Arizona. He wrote a book describing opportunity there; he also represented Arizona Territory in Washington D.C.; he held several government posts and it was he who convinced President Lincoln and Congress to declare Arizona a separate territory from New Mexico.

Poston is called "The Father of Arizona," but the state he helped create forgot him. He died a pauper in Phoenix. His only monuments are a butte and a concentration camp.

Poston Butte, near Florence, is where his ashes were scattered after a belated ceremony. His name also was given to a now forgotten concentration camp used to house Japanese-Americans during World War II. Arizona chose an odd way to honor its "Father."

POSTON entered Arizona from the south, coming up through the Santa Cruz Valley from Sonora, Mexico. He found several abandoned mines near the border. The original Spanish and Mexican miners had been driven away by the Apaches.

Poston was on his way to California when he stopped at an Army post at Yuma. He described the mining sites to the post commander, Major Samuel

Heintzelman.

Heintzelman and Poston decided to form a company to develop the mining sites. Heintzelman resigned his commission and in Cincinatti, Ohio, formed the Sonora Mining and Exploration Company.

The firm was capitalized with one million dollars. Heintzelman served as president and Post as operating superintendent. Post established a field office in Tubac, Arizona. This was forty miles south of Tucson, near a group of silver mines in the Santa Rita Mountains.

Another group of claims was located near the Cerro Colorado Mountains, twenty miles west of Tubac. John Poston, younger brother of Charles, was named superintendent of the second group.

The largest and richest mine at Cerro Colorado was named the Heintzelman Mine. During the first years of this venture, the company prospered. The silver seemed to be everywhere for the taking.

Courtesy Arizona Historical Society

This photo, taken in 1946, shows what remained then of the Cerro Colorado mine in Santa Cruz County, Arizona.

At Cerro Colorado

THE APACHES were no trouble at this time as they were at peace with the Americans. High grade ores were shipped overland to smelters in the East. Some ore was sent south to Sonora, there to be loaded on ships and sent half way around the world to smelters in Wales. Only very rich ore could be sent that far and still show a profit.

The trouble that was to doom Cerro Colorado began when the Apaches went on the war path. An American rancher complained to an Army post that his place had been raided, his stock stolen and the Apaches had carried off a young boy, the son of his commonlaw wife by a former liaison.

A young second lieutenant named George N. Bascom decided to solve the problem himself. Bascom sent for the only Apache he knew, Cochise, and asked for a parley without telling Cochise the reason for the meeting.

Cochise and a few of his men appeared and were seized. They were accused of robbery and kidnapping. Cochise broke free and escaped in a hail of bullets, but a couple of his captured

Photo supplied by author

Some of the adobe ruins seen today at the Cerro Colorado mine. Cerro Colorado Mountain tip is in background.

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[illegible] HIB.TED

Courtesy Arizona Historical Society

Charles D. Poston

Courtesy Arizona Historical Society

Gen. Sam Heintzelman

braves were hung as an example.

Cochise vowed vengeance and this brought on the Apache war. Cochise had told the truth. His Chiricahuas were innocent. The ranch raiders were from another tribe, the White Mountain band.

Without warning, isolated miners and ranchers were killed by Apaches. The unlucky ones were captured and tortured to death. Apaches enjoyed tying captured men to a wagon wheel upside down and roasting them over a fire.

Another favorite trick was to wait in ambush at watering places. The whites who survived the first onslaught fled the territory for safer places.

THE U.S. ARMY tried to protect the settlers but could not. Then the Civil War began and all soldiers and equipment were ordered to the East for combat duty. The Apaches watched the departure and took it to be a sign of victory.

The Indians became even bolder. Men were killed within sight of the walls of Tucson. The river road from Tucson sixty miles to the border was lined with graves.

At Cerro Colorado, the miners kept on for a time using armed guards. These were placed in a circle around the town. Poston had a workforce of Mexicans and Indians. During this confusion, the miners discovered they could profit without working. They stole ore and property and fled in the night to Mexico. Poston considered the only two men he could trust were his two German engineers.

One night John Poston caught his foreman, Juanito, heading for Mexico with several mule-loads of stolen silver ore. Poston executed Juanito on the spot.

Poston had hoped to set an example. But it had the opposite effect. Each night more miners deserted taking what they could steal.

Stories reached Sonora of two hidden treasures. The first story was of John Clark, who had a small but very rich silver mine near Cerro Colorado. He had been scared away by the Apaches, but before he left he had another rich shipment of silver ready.

The story was that Clark had hidden the silver in the entrance to his mine, then dynamited the tunnel to protect it until it was safe for him to return.

The second story was that Juanito had hidden a large amount of silver ore.

Mexican bandits heard these stories and rode north. With the help of the remaining Mexican miners, they killed John Poston and his two German assistants. The Mexicans then took the place apart looking for silver. They didn't find it. No one ever has. Nor has anyone found the John Clark mine.

Charles Poston found his brother's body and the bodies of the two Germans a few days later. He buried John under a concrete crypt. The engineers were buried beneath piles of stone. Charles Poston then fled the area.

PEACE was not to return to Southern Arizona for more than twenty years — until Geronimo surrendered. Over the next decades, the mines at Cerro Colorado went through several owners.

All mining ceased at the turn of the century. One noted owner was Samuel Colt, the firearms maker. After the mining stopped, the site was vandalized. John Poston's concrete crypt was broken into.

There is still mining in the area, but not at Cerro Colorado. It is difficult to locate its remains.

To visit the site, take Interstate-19 south from Tucson to the Amado-Arrivaca exit. Drive west on Arrivaca Road for about fourteen miles. At this point, there's an unmarked dirt road with a stop sign coming in on the right side.

Turn right onto the dirt road and go one-fifth mile and stop. This is the site of the John Poston crypt. Past the grave is a low hill. On the east side of the hill are the remains of the town. On the west side of the hill is a concrete dump.

MAJOR HEINTZELMAN re-entered the Army during the Civil War and rose to the rank of general. He died later in Ohio, the only principal connected with Cerro Colorado to lead a reasonably happy life.

Charles Poston wandered through a series of low-paying government jobs, then lived in poverty in Phoenix until he died alone in the poorest section of town. Friends collected money and kept him from a pauper's grave. His remains were later exhumed and his ashes scattered from the top of a butte near Florence.

At Cerro Colorado are the unmarked graves of fifteen miners who died underground in a cave-in. Their bodies could not be recovered. John Clark died possibly in Pennsylvania waiting for the Indian raids to subside and peace to come to Arizona.

Lieutenant Bascom, who started the Indian war, died in an early battle in the Civil War. The young boy who was carried away in the Indian raid was named "Mickey Free." He lived with the White Mountain Apaches and escaped after ten years. He became a noted Indian scout with the Army during the Geronimo troubles.

The silver that was mined at Cerro Colorado is gone. It is hard to stand amid the desolation and imagine that a small town once was there. History does not always remember.

Trails Grown Dim

Readers' letters for "Trails Grown Dim" are printed as soon as space permits, so please be patient! If possible, please type your query; or if handwritten, print or write clearly, especially names, dates, and places — and most of all, please limit letters to 150 words or less. In accord with the content of our magazines and purpose of this service since its beginning, preference is given writers whose trails have grown dim out West: lost ancestors and relatives who were sheriffs, pioneers, Forty-niners, muleskinners, cowboys, Indians and Indian fighters, and so on. We can't run current "missing persons" notices or lengthy genealogical requests, but we do attempt to print all letters as soon as we can. Any reader having information concerning persons referred to below is asked to communicate directly with the letter writer; please do not write to us.

From Runaway to Kidnapper

Miller-James-Ball
Kiger-McLaughlin-Mooney

Emmett Gilson Miller ran away from home when he was about 12 years old. He was born about 1835 to 1845. He was called "Dick" and rode with Quantrill. He kidnapped a young girl in Fort Scott, Kansas about 1872, and they settled near Trinidad, Colorado.

Miller's wife said he was a cousin to Jesse James. What Miller family was he from? When was he in Lenton, Ohio? He also lived in Pennsylvania and one of his homes was on the bank of a river (Ohio?).

Dick Miller's son Ed married a Ball from Jellico, Tennessee.

Katie Miller was born at Fort Ringgold, Texas in the 1850s. She later moved to Kansas. Her mother was a cook at Fort Garland, Colorado. Katie's mother, Mary Mooney (maiden name) died in Yankton, South Dakota in 1882. I will share information. -- Myers, 269 Myers Street, Little Valley, Roseburg, Oregon 97470.

Tennant-McDowell-Young

I would appreciate hearing from anyone who has information on Richard Tennant, born 1744, in Glasgow, Scotland, and who came to America in 1760. He married Elizabeth Haught in 1929. They settled in Monogalia County, West Virginia, on Jakes Run.

We also need information on William Tennant, son of Richard. His date of birth and death is unknown. He married Catherine Brown, and their children were Abraham, Jacob, Peter and Adam. And what about Adam Tennant, son of William and Catherine? Date of birth and death is unknown. His children were Lee Van Doren, Irvin, Sanford, and Mary Ellen.

We would also appreciate hearing from relatives or anyone who may have known my great-gandparents. Jesse McDowell, born Nov. 14, 1805, married Rodan Granger and had a son, Jesse McDowell Jr., who was born April 5, 1874. The senior Jesses came to Ottawa County, Kansas, when Jesse was a small boy.

Another person of interest is Valentine Young, who married Augusta Pesta of Fort Wayne, Indiana. They had four sons.

We will be glad to exchange information and would appreciate hearing from anyone knowing of any of my ancestors. -- Marie Tennant, Box 167, Colby, Kansas 67701.

Cushman-Burnett-Cunningham

Recently I came into possession of some old documents dated 1878 and 1882 through 1886. The people the documents belonged to may have worked in mines or were merchants near Tombstone, Bisbee, Contention, or anywhere in Arizona Territory.

I'm requesting information about: Nellie Cushman (prop. Nellie Cushman's Russ House, Tombstone, A.T.); James C. Burnett (Justice of the Peace); Fanny Cunningham or Cuningham (possible employee or Nellie Cushman); Mary Letang; R.E. Allen; John Allen; T.W. Hatch; W. Morton; John Nelson Smith; P.W. Smith; E.B. Gage; J.H. Lucas; A.A. Castaneda (Contention or Bisbee businessmen); J. Goldwater; J. Guindani; A. Demartini; A. Springer; and H. Gudgeon.

Any information I can obtain on these people would be greatly appreciated. — — Nancy Keith, 2155 W. Ruthrauff Rd. £1, Tucson, Arizona 85705.

Dietzler-Skaggs-Short
Schoonover-Nay-Smith-Huggett

I would like to hear from descendants of Dietzler, Skaggs, and Short families of Missouri. Alfred Skaggs was a Confederate Army veteran who married Martha Short.

I would also like to hear from descendants of Schoonoever and Nay (or Ney) families of Illinois and Ohio. Charles W. Schoonover was born Oct. 12, 1827 and died in 1882. His wife Selina (or Celina) Nay was born in 1827 and died in 1905. They lived in Streator, Illinois and in North Dakota.

Eccles Nay was born Sept. 11, 1807, and died July 1, 1881 in Streator, Illinois or Circleville, Ohio.

Homer Smith, 1830 to 1916, was a 1st Sgt. with the 16th Infantry Vet. Vol. of Michigan. His wife, Margret Blackmer, 1833 to 1909, lived at Plymouth, Michigan, and North Dakota and Nebraska. Was Ebenzer Blackmer Margret's father?

I also need information about Jesse Huggett of England, New York and Michigan. And what of Nathan Boughton of Skaneateles and Stillwater, New York, 1800s - 1840s? --Mrs. R.V. Greenman, Niawa Star Route, Box 106, Park Rapids, Minnesota 56470.

Peeples-Carlisle-Mitchell

I am seeking any information I can on Dr. Peeples who had a practice in Atlanta, Georgia, in the late 1800s or early 1900s.

He is also supposed to have practiced in Montgomery, Alabama. He had a son (my grandfather), Jerome Peeples, who married Elizabeth Price in Browns boro, Texas (Henderson County) some time in the early 1900s. My father Nick Peeples was born in 1912.

Dr. Peeples was supposed to have

(continued on page 50)

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THE LAST GOLD

IN THE CLAN ALPINE COUNTRY — HERE WERE NAMES

Photo supplied by author

Merriment on Rawhide's main street. April 17, 1908.

RUSH IN NEVADA

LIKE RAWHIDE, WONDER, LAPLATA, AND JESSUP

MINE owners stayed up late pondering dwindling prospects while out on the streets, the people scurried oblivious to the impending disaster. Merriment reigned beneath glittering chandeliers and Piper's Opera House featured Jenny Lind singing before a sell-out crowd.

This was the scene in Virginia City, Nevada, in 1880, reflecting the old story of discovery, boom and decline. The end of the fabulous Comstock Lode was in sight, but ninety miles away in the once forbidden desert new echos of "gold" were ringing across the alkali flats and down canyon walls.

The new cries of "gold" brought thousands to virgin territory: Miners, merchants, dancehall girls, all off again in pursuit of dreams of fortune.

This is Clan Alpine country, named after the mountain range the Clan Alpines, which tower 9,000 feet above the desert floor. It was here names like Rawhide, Wonder, Fairview, La Plata, Bolivia and Jessup were forever linked to the last bonafide gold rush of the West. It was a gold rush which led briefly to the resurgence of early twentieth century Nevada mining.

Mining towns would spring up as fast as they could be torn down. Tunnels were dug, mills went up, and clapboard and tin were back covering the sagebrush flats. The new rush was on, dampened only by the strangest terrain a miner ever encountered. Hills were mountains, grass was a briny weed and the landscape was straight out of a Jules Verne novel.

By Martin Bonetti

Despite these problems, thousands stormed into the area and by 1900, most of the flats were crisscrossed by tracks made by mule trains hauling goods to towns and mining camps.

TODAY, other mining areas with ghost towns have a new lease on life as tourist attractions. But Clan Alpine country remains virtually free of visitors even though it has changed little in one hundred years. Fairview is one typical such ghost town in the Clan Alpine country.

Fairview overlooks breathtaking Labou Flat, where Amie "Frenchy" Bermond, early Twentieth Century trader, established his trading post. Little is known of Bermond, although he apparently moved his trading post to the Fairview site from a location on the old Overland Trail. Where Bermond's trading post originally stood, there's now a restaurant-bar and adjoining motel.

Of the 107 ghost towns in Nevada, Fairview, Rawhide, Wonder, La Plata, Bolivia and Jessup are easily accessible over fairly good roads from northern or southern California.

From southern California — Lancaster, Mojave or Bishop — take U.S. Highway 395 north to Carson City and the junction with U.S. Highway 50, and turn east onto U.S. 50. From northern California it takes only a few hours to

Photo supplied by author

Hauling freight in Rawhide for the Northern Saloon.

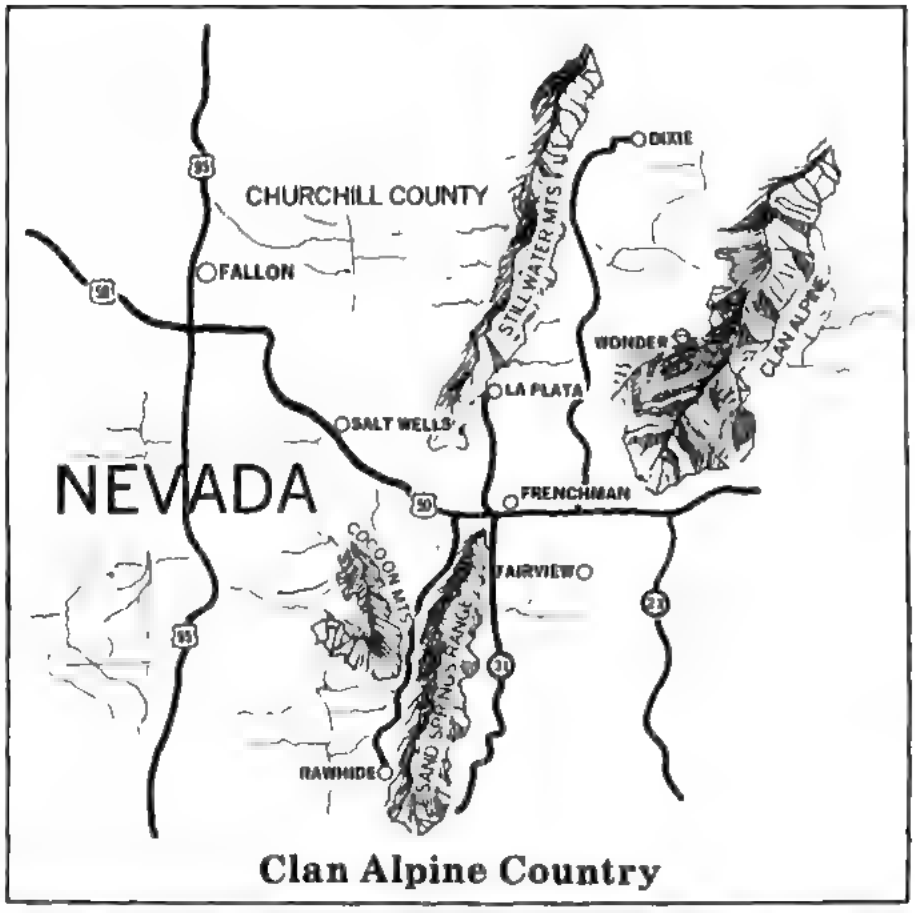
reach Carson City via Lake Tahoe.

Sixty miles east of Carson City is the "oasis in the desert," Fallon, Nevada. The usual motels and casinos line the road but the history of the area can be best seen in a visit to the Churchill County Museum.

There the story of Fallon is told — a town which served a dozen mining camps located along roads forty miles out.

Forty-five minutes after leaving Fallon, there's Labou Flat, which appears like a mirage. It is here you can go prospecting for gold. But the novice should beware. You must carry water not only for yourself but your car. Extra food, extra gas and extra water should be taken along. Primary roads only are paved.

Frenchman's Flat, where you can stop to rest and ask directions, has meals, lodging and gas available. The proprietors, Christopher and Lauren Chealander, are eager to have guests. Their bar is the only one around for many dry miles.



RAWHIDE is the logical next stop once you leave Frenchman's Flat. Straddling Churchill and Mineral coun-

Courtesy Churchill County Museum

Fourth of July in Fairview in 1911.

Photo supplied by author

Arrival of the stage in Rawhide.

ties, Rawhide is the site of several mines. They caused great excitement during the "rush" but nothing much happened. These mines actually had the lowest production of any in the Clan Alpine district. Crude dwellings, or dugouts, served as homes for the miners. Some are still intact and can be found by searching. Other buildings remain, some in disrepair. The jail has weathered time and the elements quite well. Within its native rock walls is the solitary, formidable cage-like cell.

Among the stories associated with Rawhide is that of Reginald Meaker. It seems that on entering the town, Meaker could not find a place to sleep though he looked everywhere. It was getting late and the only place offering any shelter was the mortuary even though it, too, was full. A few bodies were in residence on the floor but that didn't prevent Meaker from making a place for himself and he fell fast asleep among the corpses.

On awakening the next morning, he

Courtesy Churchill County Museum

Douglas-Jarvis Bank in Fairview, circa 1911.

Photo supplied by author

Some of the old-timers at Rawhide. Eugene Grutt, known as Daddy of Rawhide, is thrid from left, top row.

Rawhide Queen Mine Co. of Rawhide, Nevada.

discovered two more bodies, quite dead, huddled next to his own. It was Meaker's only night in the mortuary.

ANOTHER story is of the visit of English writer Lady Elinor Glyn, whose recent book had been a hit in England. But why she ever wanted to visit Rawhide, no one says. However, she held a fascination for the Old West which was as popular then as it is now. Lady Glyn also was a "hit" in Rawhide, perhaps because she was the only lady in town. She went back to England as an honorary deputy constable of Rawhide.

Once Rawhide was firmly established it boasted fourteen saloons, ten brokerage offices, eight rooming houses, two banks and assorted other businesses

Hauling supplies on the road to Fairview, circa 1911.

Photos courtesy Churchill County Museum

Wonder, Nevada, in 1911.

plus several gambling dens.

Highly touted as another Virginia City, Rawhide had a spectacular though brief life built mostly on speculation and hopes. On September 4, 1908, a fire completely gutted Rawhide, creating an overnight exodus. Merchants who had built again immediately after the fire were forced to leave. Rawhide never did recover.

Fairview, initially promising, met the same fate as Rawhide. Everyone deserted for Wonder, another mining boom town in the Clan Alpines. One optimistic editor wrote of Fairview: "Fairview is life; Fairview is action. The man who takes the initiative is the man who succeeds. The man who waits has no hope." But it was Fairview that had no hope.

There was good reason for painting such a rosy picture of Fairview at the time. Two mines were promising untold of wealth. Speculation mounted with each passing day. Things were looking up. A bank, school, fifty assorted mining companies, miners, speculators and merchants all came to Fairview.

But an event 300 miles away changed everything. San Francisco suffered a disastrous earthquake in 1906, the year Fairview was beginning to show promise. But speculation on Fairview was dependent on San Francisco banks which ceased to exist in the aftermath of the earthquake. Adding to Fairview's problems was the discovery of silver 15 miles northeast in what became Wonder.

WONDER, as one writer said, "was all that the name implies." It was also the most successful mining district continuing as late as 1942 to produce limited amounts of silver and gold. The Wonder mining district produced $6,343,000 in gold and silver from 1906 to 1942, by far the most produced in any mining district of the Clan Alpine.

One of the few prominent personalities to emerge — or escape — from Wonder was Eva Adams, superintendent of the United States Mint under Presidents Kennedy and Johnson. Miss Adams spent most of her formative years in the Silver State.

Although mining continued for years after, the town of Wonder shut down in August 1920.

La Plata, Bolivia and Jessup are located in a huge alkali sink called Dixie Valley, a sight to behold between two towering mountain ranges, the Clan Alpines and the Stillwaters. The three are not far from a paved road which disects the valley. Eventually the traveler could reach Interstate-80, but there's enough to see in Rawhide and the vicinity.

With a metal detector, you just might find a twenty dollar gold piece, or perhaps a silver coin. But even if you never find a thing, your trip through this panoramic locale should be well worth it.

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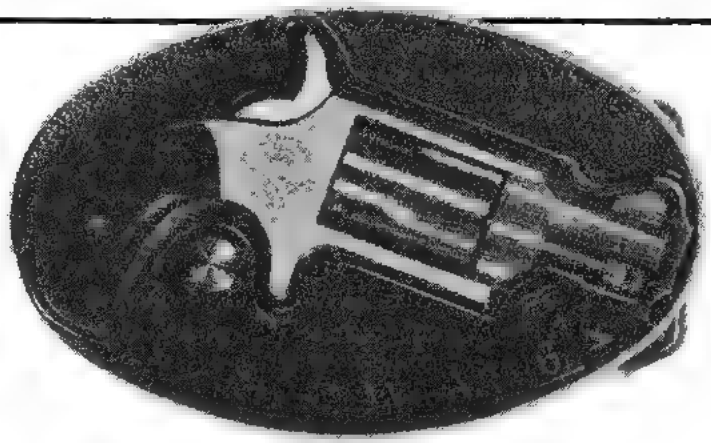

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KID KRINGLE

'Twas the night before Christmas when all through the camp
Warn't a miner a'stirring, they wuz out like a lamp.
The six-guns wuz hung by the bedrolls with care
In case Kid Kringle soon 'ud be there.
The Posse wuz nestled all snug by the trail
Fearin an attack on the overland mail;
For Kringle coming in kerchief and cap
To shoot up the diggins at Waterdog Gap.
When down in the draw there riz such a clatter
The sheriff vamoosed — he knew what wuz the matter.
Away to the hills he flew like a flash —
For Kringle wuz regarded consarnedly rash.
The moon on the breast of the new-fallen dust
Showed I wuz alone to face what I must;
When what to my wonderin eyes should appear
But a bearded old bloke with a cauliflower ear,
Ridin his hoss, his spurs all a-jingle —
I knew in a moment it must be Kid Kringle.
More rapid than eagles his curses they came
As he bellered for miners and called 'em by name:
Hey Pflugel! Hey Google! Hey Brughel! and Krezzants!
"Come on outa hidin — I got you some presents!"
But the varmints in terror remained in their sacks
Too afeared to reach for the guns on their packs.
With dry throats and in a wild hurry to fly
They figgered their chances; then I heered a cry
"To the hilltops!" And like cayuses they flew
To get shet o' the camp and Kid Kringle too.
And then in a twinklin they'd cleared out of camp:
Just me and Kid Kringle alone in the damp
As I drew out my gun and wuz turnin around,
Off his nag Kid Kringle came with a bound.
He wuz dressed all in black from his head to his toes
And a highwayman's kerchief covered his nose.
A bundle of loot he had flung off his back
And he looked like a peddler just openin his pack.
His eyes, how they glared! His features how scary!
His cheeks wuz like poppies, his nose like a berry;
He had a long thin face and hardly no belly,
My knees shook when he laughed, like a bowlful of jelly.
He was skinny and spare — and loaded with pelf,
And I cringed when I seen him in spite of myself.
But a wink of his eye and a twist of his head
Soon gave me to know I had nothin to dread.
He said not a word but went straight to his loot
Dumpin gold dust and coins into each miner's boot.
I realized at once the Kid wasn't cruel —
Just givin the boys his version of Yule.
He sprang to his hoss, on his head slapped his cap,
And away the Kid clattered from Waterdog Gap;
But I heerd him yell as he fled in the night:
"Merry Christmas to All, The Darn Posse's In Sight!"

Illustrated By
Laura R. Virgil

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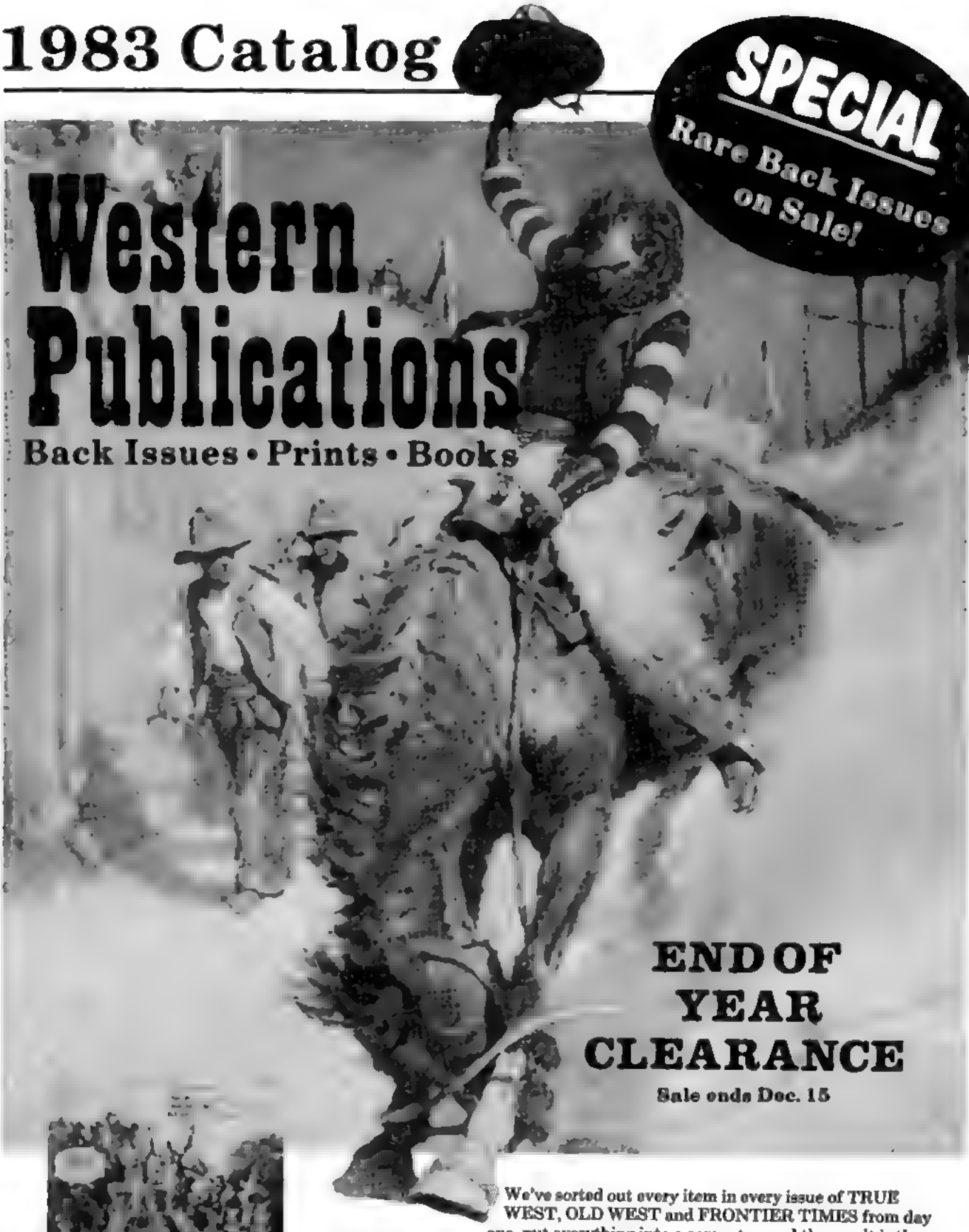
1983 Catalog



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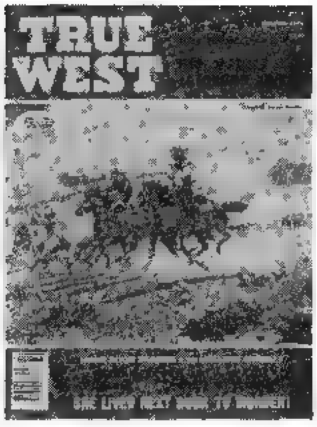
Back Issues

Order form on page 38.

TRUE WEST



From the very beginning in the summer of 1953, each issue of True West has vividly recreated Western life and times and as they really were! All of these issues are still avilable, although some are rare and have become real collector's items. Check over the listing below and complete your collection. All issues not listed are $1.50 each.

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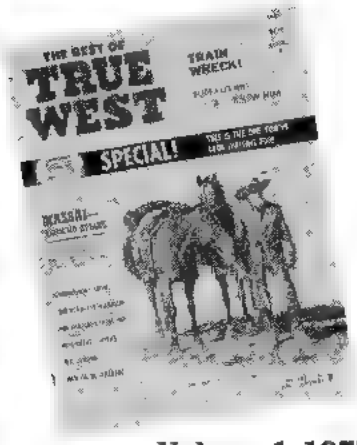

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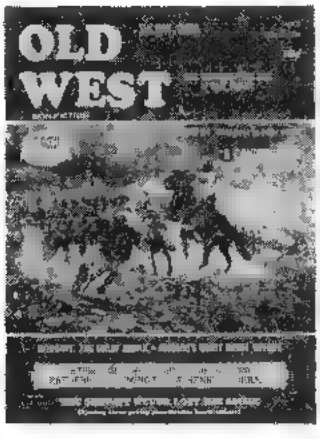

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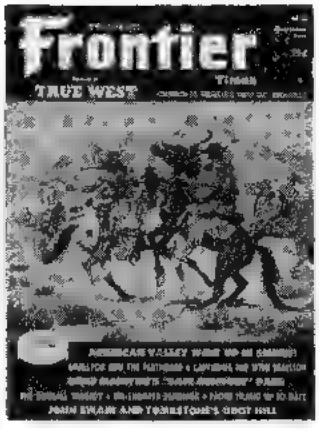

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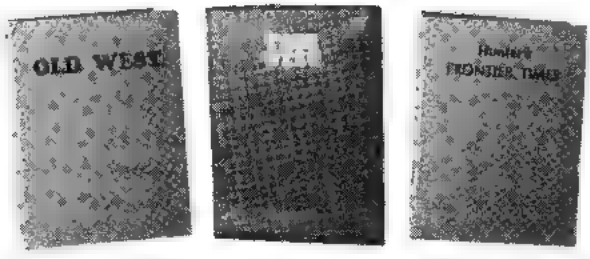

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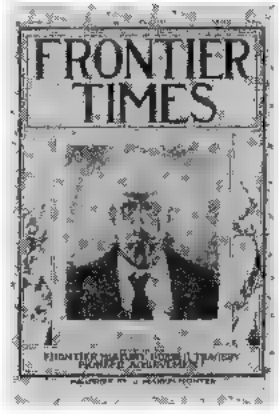

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Back Issues

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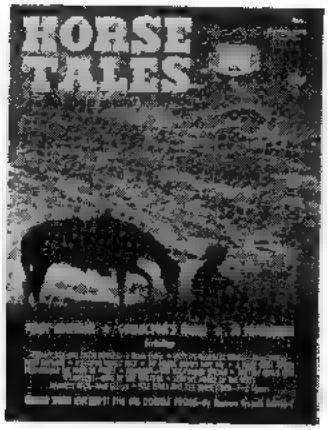

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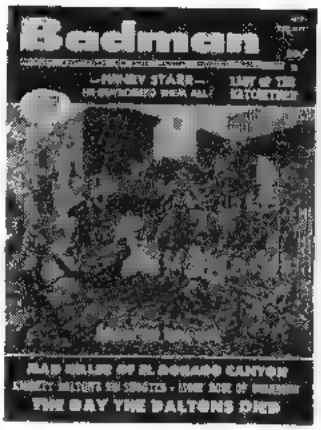

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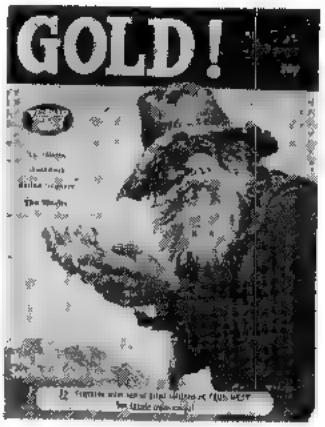

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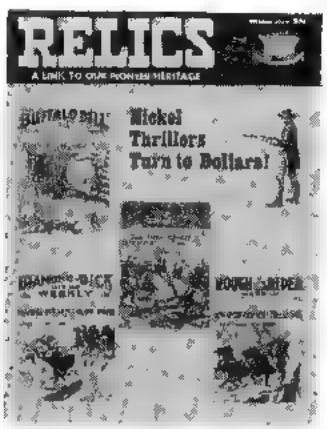

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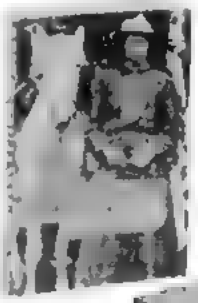

557 — THE GENTLE TAMERS: WOMEN OF THE OLD WILD WEST, by Dee Brown. A lively, informal but soundly factual account of the women who built the West. Brown, author of *Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee*, covers all aspects of western feminine life, which include a great deal about the western male. Photos. **SC $6.50**

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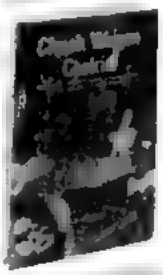

562 — CHUCK WAGON COOKIN', by Stella Hughes. The author has cooked over a lot of fires for a lot of cowboys. Now she has captured the spirit of all the pot-wrestlers who ever stirred a mess of frijoles. 112 recipes. **SC $6.50**

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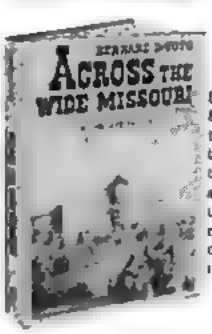

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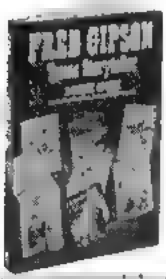

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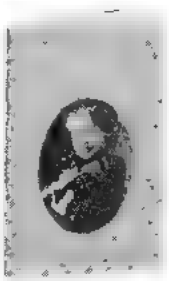

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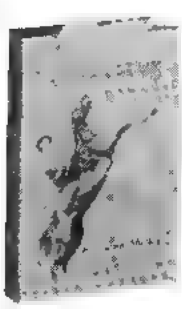

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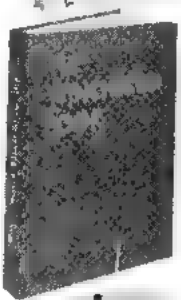

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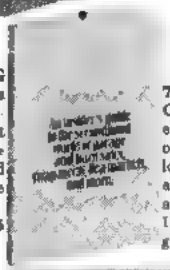

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Western Roundup

Buffalo Bill Derringers at Museum

Derringer Donation. William F. Cody became "Buffalo Bill" because he could keep a buffalo rifle red hot bringing down the big beasts of the plains. Cody was just as proficient with other weapons including small personal protection firearms.

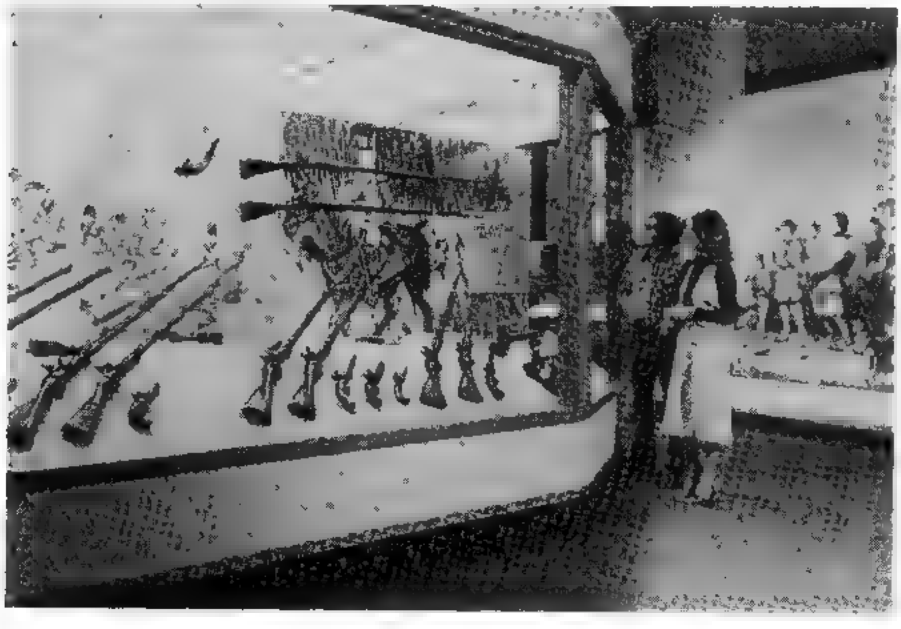
An inscribed pair of small derringers, once belonging to the famous Bill, is a new attraction at the Buffalo Bill Museum in Cody, Wyoming.

The two Henry Deringer percussion-cap pistols were donated to the museum, which is one of four in the Buffalo Bill Historical Center, by the Gerald Klaz family of California. A silver escutcheon plate inscribed with "W.F. Cody/ 1865" complements each derringer.

Courtesy of Dewey Vanderhoft

The Buffalo Bill Historical Center houses four large museums dealing with Western frontier history. The museums, aside from the Buffalo Bill Museum, are the Winchester Gun Museum, the Plains Indian Museum, and the Whitney Gallery of Western Art. Each deals with artifacts and information about specific areas of western history.

The Center is located at 720 Sheridan Avenue, next to the park, in Cody. It is open from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m., June through August; 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., May through September; and 1 to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday, in March, April, October and November.



Guns remain a public attraction at the Buffalo Bill Historical Center.

Western Collection. The largest, privately-owned collection of western frontier memorabilia in the world can be viewed at the Frontier Museum in Temecula, California.

The museum, which is a re-creation of the early western town of Tombstone, Arizona, displays over 1,000 authentic guns, many of which were used by famous figures in the West. Over 60 wax figures, stagecoaches, a chuck wagon, jailhouse, saloon, theater, a western street and shops also highlight the museum.

Visitors can find the Frontier Museum west of Interstate 15 E (old 395) two hours southeast of Los Angeles. It is located between Los Angeles and San Diego. New to Temecula, it was opened to the public in April of 1982.

Artifacts and Art. The National Cowboy Hall of Fame, located in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, displays artifacts as well as art dealing with western United States history. A large library on western information accentuates the Hall of Fame also.

Visitors will find the attraction open ten hours a day from Memorial Day to Labor Day. During the rest of the year, it is open from 9:30 to 5:30 p.m.

The National Cowboy Hall of Fame is located on 1700 N.E. 63rd Street, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73111.

Early Urbanites. Territory Junction, in the Montana Historical Society Museum, Helena, is hosting a new permanent exhibit called "The Urban Pioneers."

"The Urban Pioneers" simulates the lifestyles of businessmen and others who lived during the 1860s through the 1880s. It is composed of brief videotapes which show period photographs of the people who settled in Montana Territory towns. Territory Junction itself is a "street" of 11 shops and offices

characterizing an imaginary business district. "The Urban Pioneers" exhibit opened there on March 15, 1982.

Writing Convention. Publishers' booths, speakers, tours, and awards presentations will highlight the Western Writers of America's 30th Annual Convention in Amarillo, Texas, in 1983.

The convention is tentatively scheduled to begin the last Sunday of June and run through the following Thursday (June 26 through 30). Registration is on Sunday, the 26th, and the convention will begin Monday, the 27th.

The chairman of the convention is Jim Jennings, 207 Mescalero Trail, Route 5, Amarillo 79118.

A Cowboy Christmas. An old-fashioned Christmas as it was enjoyed by the pioneers in ranching country will be celebrated at the Ranching Heritage Center hthe nights of December 1-3. Visitors to the 14-acre center at Texas Tech University in Lubbock can walk along paths lit by candles, lanterns and luminarias where the spirit of cowboy Christmases past lives again.

Running from six to eight p.m. each night, this event is part of the yearly "Candlelight at the Museum" celebration held at the Center. Activities include a planetarium show on the Star of Bethlehem, puppet shows and exhibits.

The event wil be held at Texas Tech University, Lubbock 79409.

Spurs on Display. More than 6,000 spurs are on display in Mitchell's Free Western Museum in Gatesville, Texas. The museum, owned by Lloyd Mitchell, displays 6,426 spurs, some of which belonged to movie stars Rex Bell and Hoot Gibson.

The visitor can view certain specialty items, too, such as a pair of spurs fashioned from an old windmill. Other spurs come from the continents of Europe, Asia, and North America. The museum highlights brands of spurs: Boone and Anchor, Star, Crockett, Kelly, O.K. and Hercules.

Mitchell's Free Western Museum is located on Texas Highway 36 in Gatesville.

Tastes of the Past. History, recreation, and scenic beauty are three rewards for visiting Cochise County in Arizona.

The county was molded from Arizona Territory in 1881. Sites in the county include the 200-mile-long Cochise Trail. Along the trail, visitors can see a collection of Indian, pioneer, and western history artifacts. The trail begins at the Cochise Visitor Center in Wilcox.

The Cochise Stronghold, Fort Bowie, Chiricahua National Monument, Tombstone, and several ghost towns are just a few of this area's attractions. Visitors are always welcome.

Western Roundup is a report on places to go and things to see associated with the history of the Old West. Submissions are welcome. Information on scheduled events should be submitted at least six months prior to the event. Items on historic places are also welcome. Send information, including black and white photos, to: Western Roundup, Western Publications, Iola, Wisconsin 54990.

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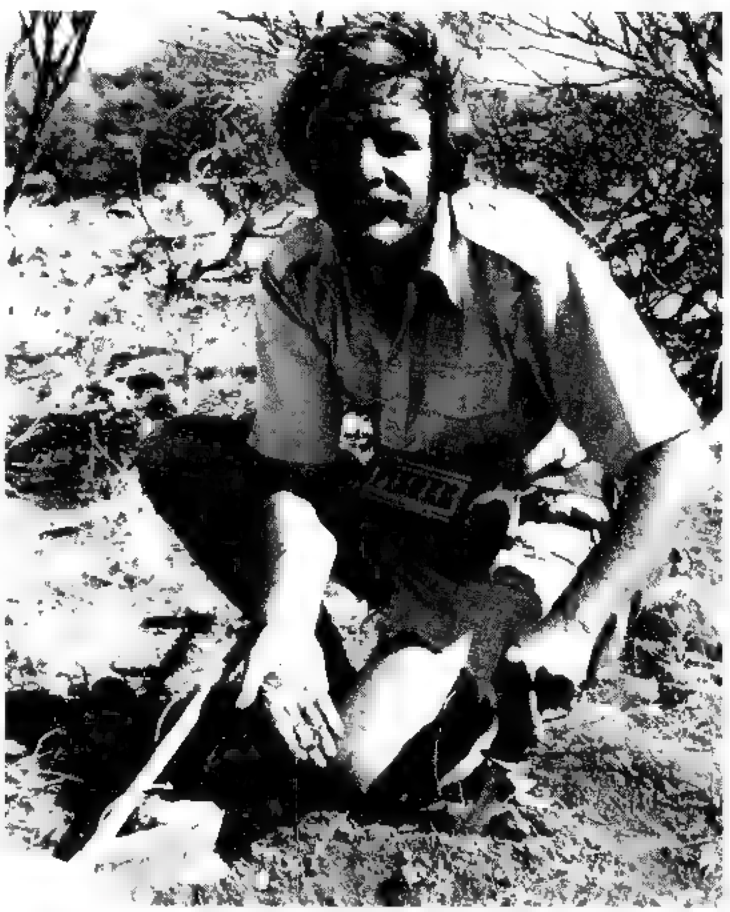


EXHIBITED

A Ghost of Zion

THE MAIN STORE IN TOWN WAS UNDERGROUND

By Wayne S. Christiansen

IN 1863, the Mormons had been in the Salt Lake Valley for about sixteen years. During that time, Brigham Young sent many families out to establish towns throughout Utah Territory and the West.

One of those towns was developed by a group of Welsh pioneers. They named their new town Center, because it was midway between the towns of St. John and Vernon about four miles off the Pony Express route in Rush Valley.

They were farmers and ranchers with their main crops hay and cattle. At about the same time, seventy miles to the northeast in Salt Lake City, the merchantile firm of Watt, Slater, and Ajax began to falter.

They stocked good quality merchandise but priced it lower than in church-owned stores. This brought wrath from church leaders and a general withdrawl of customers.

Rather than lose everything, the junior partner, William Ajax, decided to move to Center, at the hub of mining development. He started by hauling hay to the mining camps.

Courtesy Utah State Historical Society

Ajax, Utah, during its heyday in the 1870s.

It wasn't long before Ajax saw the need for a good general store. He built a two-room adobe house about half a mile from the main part of Center. He started digging in one of the rooms to make more space for his store. That's where the Ajax underground store had its beginning.

IN 1870, the post office was moved to the Ajax store building because it was more centrally located for the surrounding mines. Ajax decided he could accommodate more travelers and miners if he could do something about the harsh weather. It was often 100-plus in the summer and below zero in the winter.

Early every morning, while his wife and three children ran the store, Ajax shouldered his ax and headed for a cedar stand eight miles distant in the foothills of the Oquirrh Mountains. He cut logs for roof supports and walls. He hauled these to the store and in the heat of the day and at night, Ajax dug deeper and deeper.

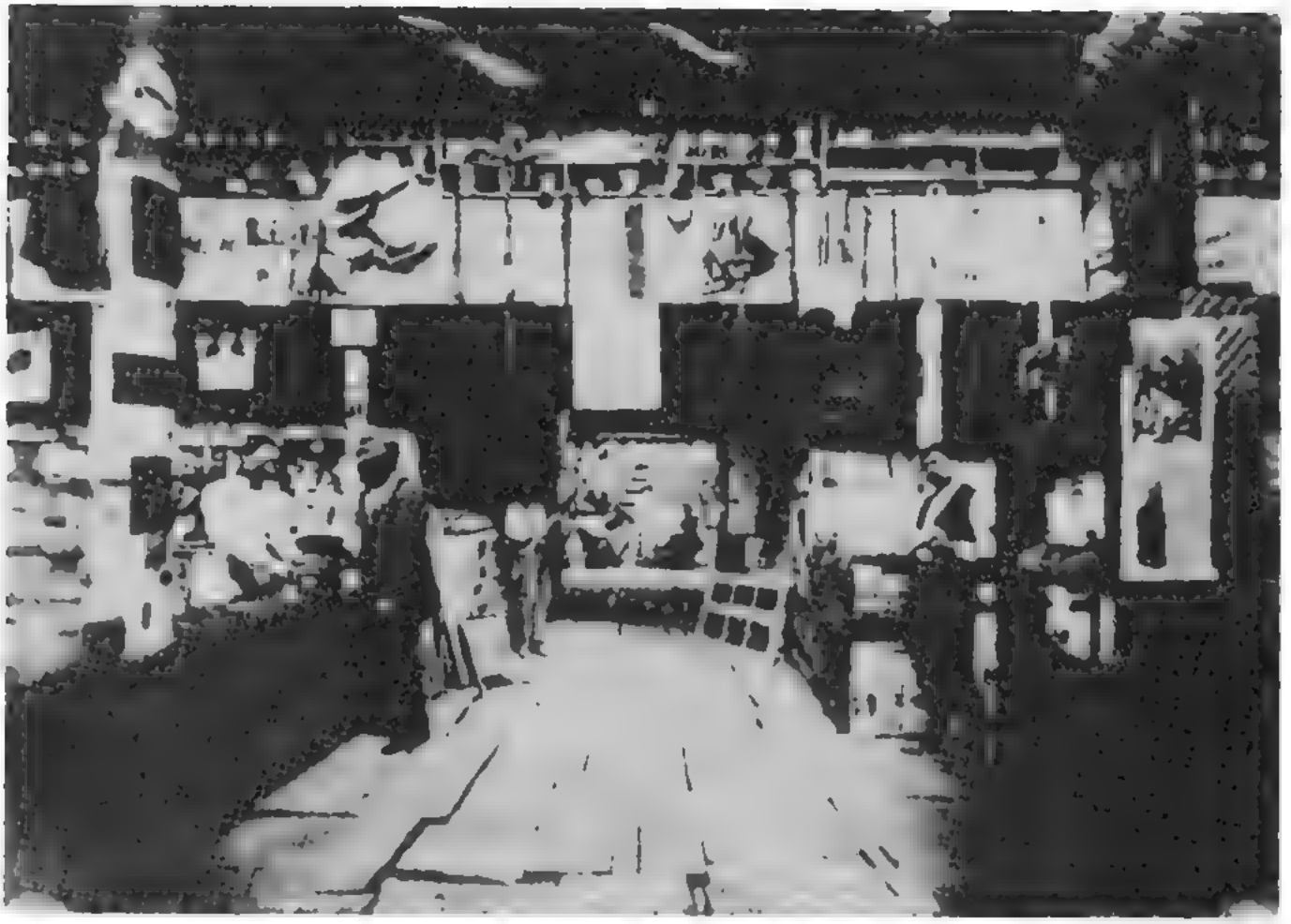
He expanded his store to keep up with the increased trade. The final excavation reached twenty-five feet by seventy feet and was ten to fifteen feet deep. Ajax beat the elements. The temperature was now comfortable and constant.

Photo supplied by author

This is how what once was Ajax looks today. The depression at center is where the underground Ajax store was once located.

THE NEW STORE consisted of a large "L" shaped room, side rooms, and alcoves totalling about 11,000 square feet.

Row on row of shelves were stacked with groceries, canned goods, packages, kegs, hardware, wire, bolts of cloth, medicine, and about everything else one



Courtesy Utah State Historical Society

Inside the Ajax store can be seen some of the $75,000 to $100,000 in merchandise kept there.

can think of. Ajax had an inventory valued from $75,000 to $100,000 for many years.

The second floor, actually the ground floor, contained the living quarters, hotel, and cafe. The floors were made from packing crate wood except for the dry goods department which had a smooth timbered floor.

The wall space, timber supports, and ceilings were covered with brightly colored posters, paintings, and advertisements. On holidays, the support beams were redecorated with tiny American flags that remained up for weeks.

In the center of the main room, long tables were stocked with china and small porcelain figurines. A magazine section contained an amazing selection of national newspapers and magazines. In summer, cold drinks could be had. They were kept in a deep, dark cellar under the store.

Sunday was the store's big day. That's when the miners and farmers took the day off from work, loaded their families in buggies and wagons, and headed for a leisurely day of shopping and visiting friends in the coolness of the store.

While the women chatted and shopped, the men grouped in the cafe or the storeroom to discuss current events or business.

Sunday afternoons also brought a few of the local Goshute Indians. They walked in single file with Chief Moon-Eye leading. He always referred to William Ajax as "My gooda Freend."

The chief was followed by a few braves and Maggie, Phoebe, and Sarah, three squaws with English names. The squaws traded a few bags of wool they picked from the brush and barbed wire fences in the valley. In the fall, they supplemented their income by gathering and roasting pine nuts for trade. But mostly they came to beg.

Business was good for many years. In

Courtesy Utah State Historical Society

William Ajax **Emma J. Ajax**

about 1885, a railroad station was built. Ajax became the main point of supply for the people as far away as the east Nevada border.

TEXAS CHARLIE was new in Center. He'd only been around about three weeks. Tex spent that time watching and biding his time. He observed that the store's receipts were collected a couple of times a day and taken upstairs to a big, black trunk that served as a bank.

After the store was closed one night, a masked man forced his way into the store. The man found one of the young Ajax daughters and forced her at gun point to take him to her father.

When they found Ajax, the gunman told him to lead the way to the money. Ajax hesitated and the robber shouted, "It's your money or your life." Ajax took him to the trunk.

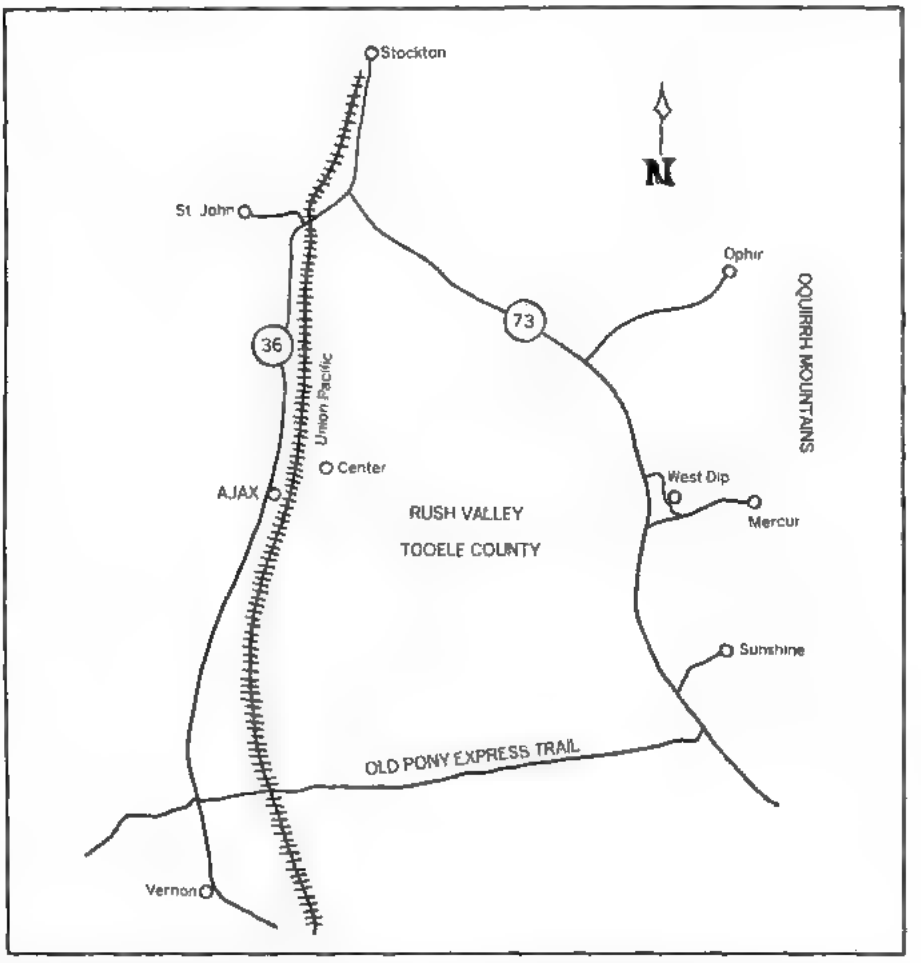
The masked man then took the trunk and rode out of town. What the culprit didn't know was that just hours before, the mail carrier had come through and taken the month's receipts.

For his efforts, the thief netted twenty dollars. Texas Charlie was never heard from in Tooele County again.

In about 1900, Ajax died and left the business to his oldest son, Ivor. At the same time, the main part of Center became a ghost leaving the desert and sagebrush to the Ajax family.

The store became the entertainment capitol of the Great Salt Lake Desert. The old log school was moved from Center and, after fixing up, became a dance and social hall.

Every Saturday night, cowboys, farmers, ranchers, and miners, loaded in their buggies or rode horses to the big Saturday night bash. By this time the store was a tourist attraction and people came from all over the West to see the underground oddity.



As better roads were built and Salt Lake City became a shopping and entertainment center, business in Center dwindled. Many mines closed and by 1914, the Ajax store closed its doors.

In the years that followed, the big store became a hobo "hotel." Later, possibly ignited by a hobo's campfire, the store burned.

There's not a trace of the old train station, barns, corrals, old school, or other buildings. My family and I visited the site but didn't find any foundations or remnants of the old town of Center.

We heard that soon after the town was deserted, the buildings either burned or were torn down for the lumber. We did find a large hole in the ground marked by a few charred timbers and pieces of purple and blue glass.

Standing on the edge of the excavation, my family and I found it hard to imagine what it was like on this spot one-hundred years ago.

For the last eight years, my wife Cathy, my daughter Stacey, and I have hunted, researched, and "lived" Utah ghost towns. We have made them our family hobby. We have spent our weekends and summer vacations looking for and photographing the remnants of about ninety towns and mining camps. We've researched another seventy.

Though we have seen many unusual places, one of the most unusual was the underground store just outside of Center known as "Wm. Ajax General Merchandise."

Courtesy Utah State Historical Society

Another view showing rows of merchandise inside the Ajax store.

The Day The

It Wiped Out Brownville, Colorado

Mountain Fell

By MaryJoy Martin

A GOLD WATCH fob shaped like a scallop shell peered out from the rocky debris casting pale light from its tarnished surface.

Elsewhere in the grey tailings protruded the ribs of an umbrella, delft china shards, rusted mine machinery, tin cans and the leather sole of an old shoe — fragments of a secret which Brown Creek exposes every spring.

Brown Gulch was once the site of Brownville, Colorado, a mining town buried in 1912 by thousands of tons of rock from the Seven Thirty Mine 1,200 feet above the town.

The town now reposes beneath a tailings mound cascading from the 9,500-foot level to Interstate-70 below. The highway crosses the spot where part of Brownville once stood, one quarter of a mile west of Silver Plume, Colorado.

Scattered throughout the stony burial shroud are relics of the village: An ore cart, hoisting engine, wainscoting, roofing tin, a few red bricks.

Pinched between two timbers, a bit of black wool fabric flutters in the breeze like a ghost desperate to be acknowledged. Also lost in the slide were the town's buildings, possibly two men, a piano and a well-stocked bar.

BUT the 1912 disaster was avoidable. Had the owners of the Seven Thirty Mine respected nature and showed greater concern for the villagers below, Brownsville could have escaped entombment.

Near the end of the 1860s, the discovery of silver brought hordes of prospectors to the Georgetown-Silver Plume area. Among them were T. Brown and Samuel Watson. While Brown was poking about the lower part of the gulch just west of the mining camp of Silver Plume, Watson was digging holes in the upper gulch.

Brown soon discovered a promising lode and staked his claim. Despite the presence of other grubby prospectors in the same gulch, Brown decided to name a few small items in honor of his discovery.

He started with 11,200-foot Brown Mountain. Then came Brown mine run by the Brown Silver Mining Company, Brown Gulch with Brown Creek slicing through it and of course the collection of tents at the bottom he dubbed Brownville.

The names held. Brown believed he did his fellow gulchers a favor christening everything after himself because there was a Welchman there named William Llanerchymedd. The Welchman was considering calling the place Llanerchymeddville and so forth.

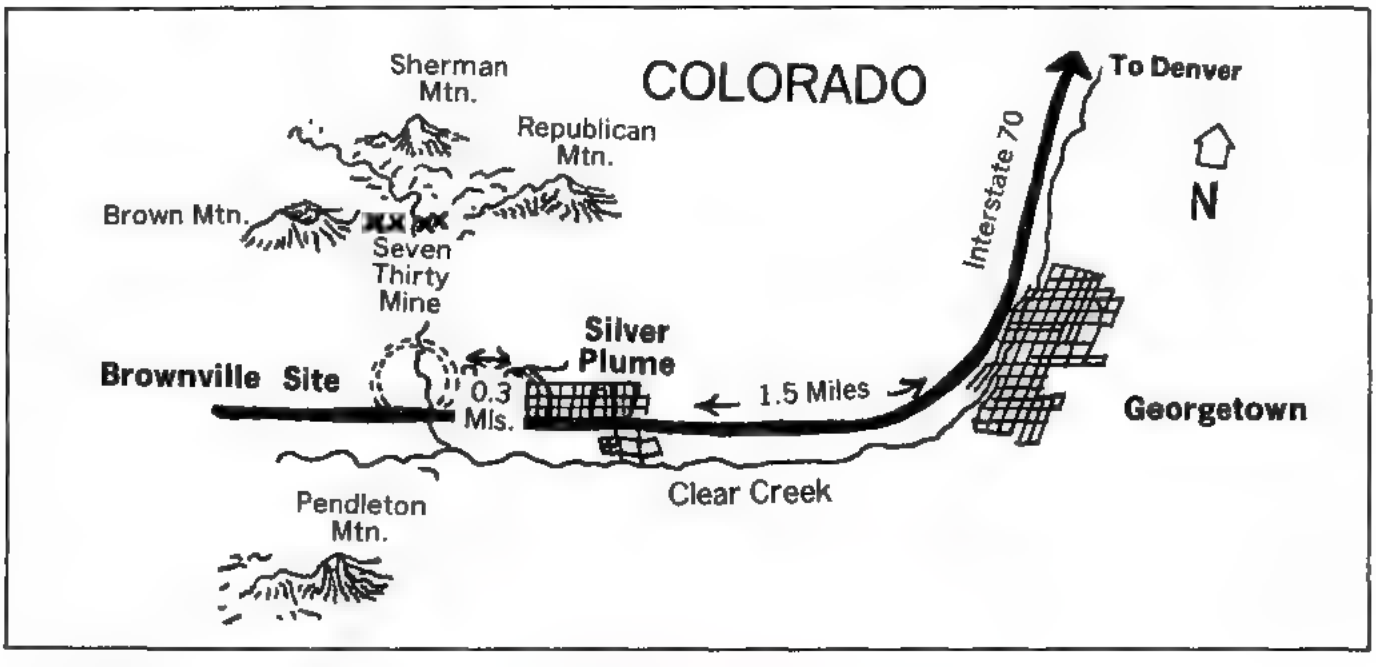
Other discoveries followed Brown's and the population of Brown Gulch increased a hundred-fold. The Terrible, Smuggler, Peterson, Cascade, Dunderberg, Glasgow, Mammoth, Montreal, Vice President and smaller mines howled into prosperity.

Watson also discovered a silver seam located in the upper crotch of Brown Gulch. Watson named it the Seven Thirty.

Nearby were the Hercules and the Roe. The owners of all three mines fought over titles and after several court battles, they merged as the Consolidated Hercules and Roe Silver Mining Company.

But the mine failed to produce fast enough for Watson. He soon sold out. The Seven Thirty group mines (as they were called), limped along the next several years under the Hercules and Roe management.

MEANWHILE, mining camps became mining towns. Brownville sprouted permanent houses, a small



Courtesy U.S Geological Survey

White rock area is where Brownville, Colorado is buried beneath tons of rock from the Seven Thirty mine. Terrible and Smuggler mines are to the left.

school, grocery store, hotel, a few saloons and several boarding houses. But the town was in a poor location. No one believed in city planning at the time.

Situated at the bottom of the gulch, Brownville lay in the path of avalanches, rockslides and floods. Each spring it was lashed by the torrents of Brown Creek swollen from rain and thawing snow.

Clear Creek, also coursing through Brown, ravaged the town too, sending the splinters down to Denver.

The residents were undaunted. When there was no more room to build at the bottom, they built along the edges of Brown Gulch which rose at a 50-degree angle.

Cabins and mine buildings were aimlessly perched on ledges and tucked into crevices. One miner who chose not to blast a hole in the granite for his privy, built it on a platform overhanging the gulch. Woe to the careless man who wandered beneath.

BY THE 1880s, the Terrible and Dunderberg mines were the best producers. These employed several hundred men.

James Cheyne built his Granite Polishing Works at the west edge of town, employing several men to cut and polish granite for tombstones, cornerstones and other stones.

Charles Desmoineaux expanded his grocery. Lloyd Z. Jones had a few dozen children to teach in the school. The Lampshire boarding house-hotel was never without lodgers, and on weekends the Fox and Hound Saloon resounded with the noise of Cornish and Italian miners.

Though lacking the finer details of culture, Brownville provided a few luxuries. If music was called for, the miners (and sometimes mules) gathered round the piano in the Lampshire parlor. They raised their voices to the gay or woeful ballads played by Mary Lampshire. This became one of Brownville's traditions.

For other entertainment, there was Lizzie Griffin and her "cousins" who delighted in wasting men's money and energy every day but Sunday.

But the best entertainment even attracted spectators from other cities. The proprietor of the Fox and Hound sponsored Cornish wrestling matches in an arena built opposite the saloon.

Nearly every Saturday the wrestlers grunted and sweat for monetary prizes while the spectators gambled on the winners.

While Brownville reached for recognition, the Seven Thirty mine shook off its sluggishness. Wearied of the properties, the owners dumped the mine company into the lap of its treasurer, Heneage M. Griffin.

A keen businessman, Griffin hired a pair of mining engineers, consulted with state geologists and employed 30 more miners. The Seven Thirty began to roar.

At the mine, 10,451 feet up, new buildings were constructed: A boarding house, an ore house, blacksmith shop, machine shop, heated bath house and offices.

Production doubled, then quadrupled. But Griffin was not a miserly capitalist. The safety of his employees and others living below the mine was important to him.

In the mine, Griffin replaced old shoring, installed new pumps and allowed only trained experts to blast. He also shortened work shifts so his miners would not be endangered by fatigue.

To compensate for shorter hours, the hourly wage was raised by 67 cents.

Griffin was much loved by his employees and in the seventeen years he owned the Seven Thirty, only two fatal accidents occurred. Griffin paid the funeral costs for both men.

As the Seven Thirty mine tailing dump grew, it loomed as a hazard to those in the gulch below. A few small rock slides from the dump piled into the back of A.E. McBride's cabin nearby.

Though nothing was damaged, it was a warning. Griffin then had extensive shoring done on the western end of the mine.

Again, in the winter of 1888, a snowslide on Brown Mountain, dumped several years of snow on the Seven Thirty's buildings.

This resulted in the construction of timber retaining walls along the side of the mountain.

During several spring thaws, Brown Creek loosened the tailings, sending rock down the steep gulch toward Brownville.

Griffin continued shoring and rerouted the troublesome creek into pipes and flumes. Several pipes went through the tailings to ease erosion. A wooden flume was built in to take the water around the dump. Griffin spared no effort in his battle with gravity and he won. There were no serious mishaps while he operated the mine.

Photo supplied by author

H.M. Griffin (1895)

Griffin became a wealthy man and sold the Seven Thirty in 1896 to B.B. Lawrence of New York. Griffin left the area.

THE MINE was then managed by the Dives-Pelican Mining Co. The purchasers immediately pulled up the pumps allowing the property to fill with water to the 275-foot level. For several years little work was done in the Seven Thirty. Repair of Griffin's snow-walls, dump shoring, pipes and flumes was neglected.

On Feb. 22, 1899, an avalanche thundered down Brown Mountain at four in the morning, killing three men at the mine. The snow ripped into the ore house where Ben Nelson, John Anderson and Peter Olsen were sleeping in a second floor room.

The avalanche dragged the men, machinery, rock and wreckage down Brown Gulch, burying everything. Olsen was dug out alive. Another man, Dan Fitzpatrick, was crushed to death when the snowslide hit his cabin at the Seven Thirty.

Later that spring, Nelson's body was discovered by B.C. Catren Sr., who noticed a foot protruding from a bank of thawing snow in the gulch. The body of Anderson was never recovered.

The avalanche should have been a warning to Brownville that things might come her way. Few citizens paid heed, especially those up at the Seven Thirty.

After the turn of the century, new

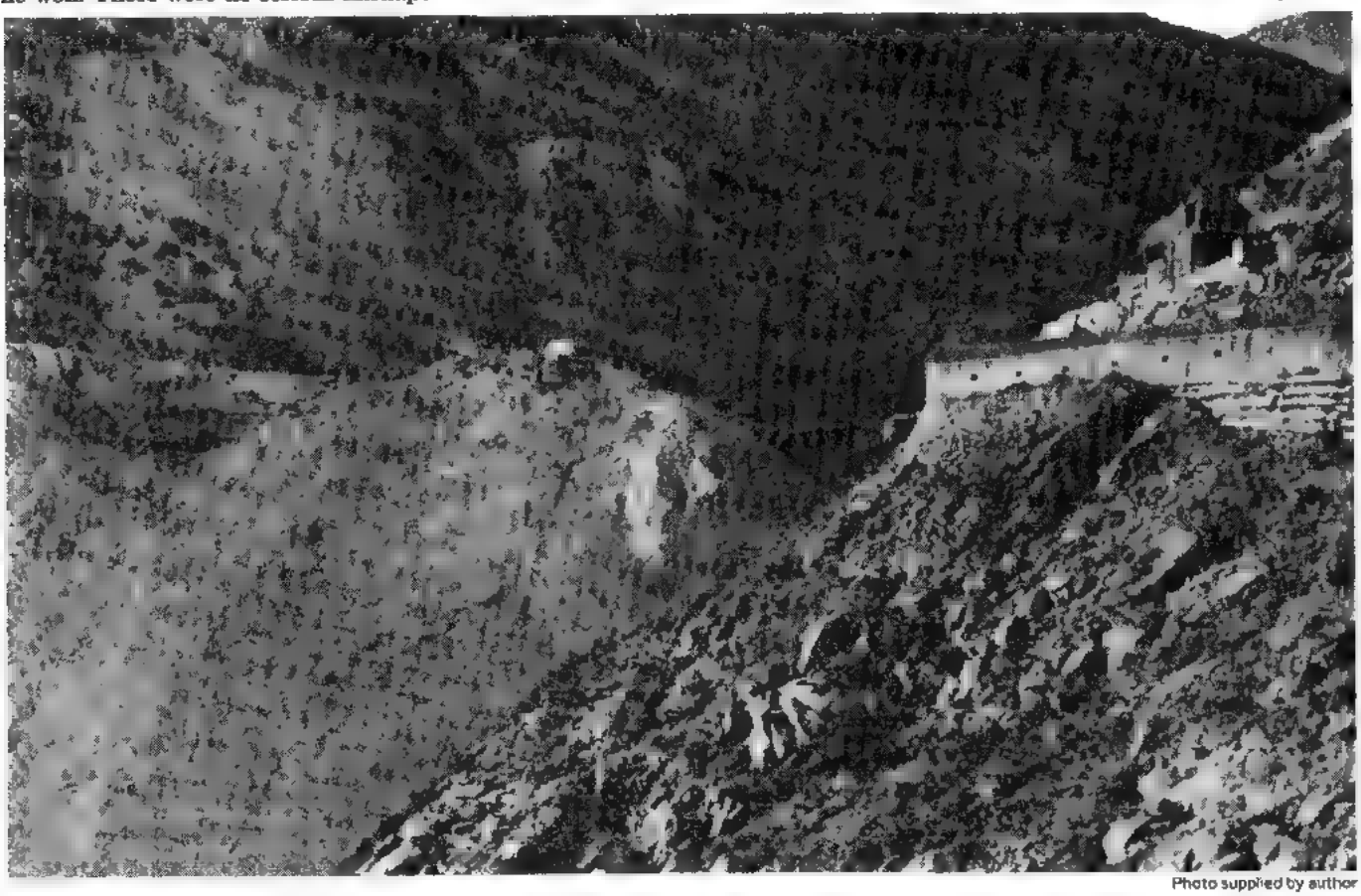
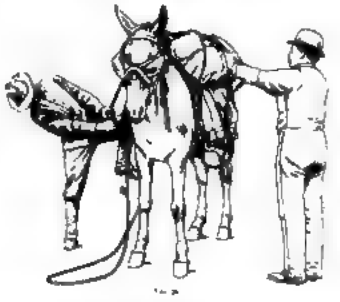


Photo supplied by author

The Seven Thirty Mine as it looked in 1903 before the avalanche buried Brownville below. Plume to drain runoff water is visible at center.

Manual of Pack Transportation



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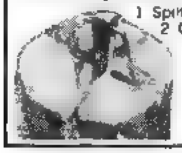

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work began on the mine. Brownville's population had dwindled to less than a hundred.

The Granite Polishing Works, Lampshire boarding house, Fox and Hound Saloon, a few houses up the gulch and the buildings of the Terrible and the Dunderberg remained.

The Colorado and Southern Railroad terminated at the village, affording easy shipment of the mine ores.

The Seventy Thirty stepped up production but made the mistake of carrying on all work through the Hercules Tunnel. This added tons more rock to the already immense dump in upper Brown Gulch.

The tailings from sixty miles of tunnels stretched for 800 feet but no shoring was added. The pipes and flumes were derelict. Brown Creek was on its old course.

FOR SIX more years the pile of worthless rock and low-grade ore grew, sending a few minor donations down to Brownville. Then in the spring thaw of 1912, Brown Creek did its dirty work.

Water seeped into the Seven Thirty's dump, saturating it. Monday night, June 24, the tailings began to loosen. A few rocks skipped below. By the next morning thousands of tons of rock and dirt had gouged down the gulch. Oscar Johnson, who was living in a cabin at the Seven Thirty, barely escaped. He salvaged only his watch and a few clothes before his cabin was wrenched into the gulch. The slide ripped through the ore house and the blacksmith shop and sent the machinery to the bottom.

The moving mass of rock and mud wiped out cabins and destroyed mine buildings.

But it sloshed down the gulch slow enough to allow men, women, children and dogs to escape with their lives if not their belongings.

From a safe distance, they watched the Granite Polishing Works collapse, the Fox and Hound fold up and the remainder of the town — their dreams, their livelihoods — smothered beneath six to ten feet of debris.

Witnesses heard the piano plinking as the Lampshire boarding house was swallowed in the deluge, giving rise to rumors that someone was buried alive. Brownville was gone.

Everyone was relieved the slide apparently caused no fatalities. Two men, John Custer and John Williams, were missing, their shared cabin demolished, but it was believed they had left the area before the slide hit.

The creek rushing down Brown Gulch still slices into the Seven Thirty tailings, belching vigorously an occasional spring.

Stubborn raspberry bushes and the emerald flash of hummingbirds are all that brighten the desolate and steep ravine. Sometimes a trick of the wind sounds like Cornish miners singing round a piano. Perhaps it is an echo from a more glorious day.

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Books

(Continued from Page 18)

as Hickok, certainly as Wild Bill."

There is essentially nothing wrong with a competently executed coffeetable book, but in the case of *The West of Wild Bill Hickok* we have a concoction made with chicory.

-- George Hart
Newton Falls, Ohio

* * *

The pictorial biography of Wild Bill Hickok if finally available! This is a work which westerners have been asking for for a number of years. Rosa was the only one who could have done the job and it is a masterpiece.

This is a major contribution to the study of a well-known western personality. Rosa's previous contributions, the two editions of *They Called Him Wild Bill* and related articles and now this pictorial with additional biographical material -- some of which is published for the first time -- establish Rosa as the eminent authority on Hickok and his era.

The scheme of this book is to chronologically present Hickok's biography briefly in textual form, divided into six segments starting with "The Beckoning West" and concluding with "A Legend in His Time." Each segment is followed with illustrations pertinent to that period. Of course, there may be room for disagreement with Rosa where he dates each photograph, but the readers will do well to follow Rosa's line of reasoning.

There are, however, several curious omissions. For example, there is a tintype of Hickok made in mid-1858 which is tinted and "enclosed in a gilt frame protected by glass and set in a leather case. Its clarity and detail are excellent." This portrait is reproduced in black and white within the text. A reproduction of this in the original color showing the leather case as well would have made a beautiful frontispiece. But it was not done.

There are photographs of Ben Thompson and Phil Coe who represent the gambling element, and the famous standing tintype of John Wesley Hardin who represents the cowboy or desperado element. This is not clear.

Other omissions include a familiar photo of two figures at Hickok's grave in the 1870s, one of whom is frequently identified as Charley Utter. And a familiar woodcut showing Hickok's death, from the William B. Secrest collection, is omitted. But included is a previously unpublished photo of Abilene's other marshal, Thomas Smith. And there is the clarification of the famous "Scouts of Plains" picture showing Hickok, Cody, Omohundro, Green and Overton.

What Rosa has done is to provide the almost definitive biography of Hickok, textually as well as pictorially. Other writers, historians, researchers should

(Continued on Page 50)

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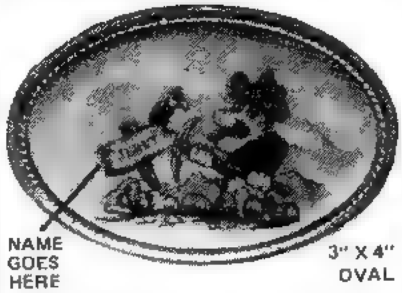

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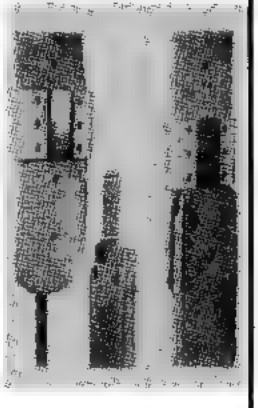

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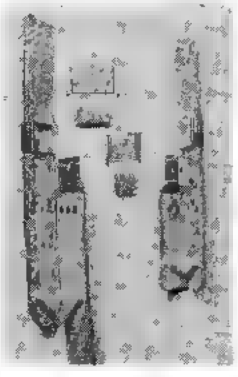

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follow this example and not retire a subject once an article or book is in print.

-- Chuck Parsons
Silver Lake, Minnesota

* * *

According to the author of this photographic essay there were only two gunfighters who came close to living the lives depicted in legend and story during the days of the American "Wild West." They were Bat Masterson and James Butler Hickok.

The art of photography spread across America during Hickok's lifetime (1837-76), and as early as 1858, he was having his image frozen in time by the camera.

By the turn of the century, "cartes de visite" (pictorial visiting cards) of Wild Bill were everywhere. It is these pictorial momentos of Hickok that Joseph G. Rosa has assembled and dated with his expertise.

The 168 photographic plates and engravings give a detailed view of the most deadly gunman of the Old West. In addition to these representations of Hickok, there are photos of Wild Bill's friends such as the colorful Martha Jane Cannary (Calamity Jane), California Joe, Yankee Jud, and William (Buffalo Bill) Cody.

In a more somber vein, this volume contains photos of some of Wild Bill's victims such as Samuel Strawhun and David McCanles. Even more macabre is the photo of Hickok's assassin, Jack McCall, though there is some doubt as to its authenticity.

This big book makes an excellent companion piece to Rosa's exhaustive biography of the noted gunman and peace officer -- *They Called Him Wild Bill.*

-- Bill Garwood
Detroit, Michigan

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Trails Grown Dim

(Continued from Page 23)

come to Atlanta from France. My grandfather was a very small baby when they arrived. Also my father had two sisters, Nina Mae and Lexie Lucy. Nina married Ed Carlisle and had four children. Lexie married Hosey Mitchel and had one child, Adolphous Jefferson. My dad married Pauline Jasmine Parker and they had four children. I am one of them.

Any information I can find about Dr. Peeples will be appreciated. -- R.J. Peeples, Rt. 8 Box 241, Tyler, Texas 75703.

Hosler

My father was born in 1885 in East Jordan, Michigan. His name was Lee Jopheh Hosler and went by J.L. Hosler. He was a Master Mason in Dec. 27, 1917 in Merdian Lodge in Idaho. He lived with his grandparents.

He left his grandparents when he was 13 years old and came to Idaho. We never knew if he had any brothers or sisters or his grandparents' names. We would appreciate any information. --

Mrs. Hattie Hutchings, 3939 Reed Street, Boise, Idaho 83704.

West-Hawkins

My great-grandmother, Josephine Hawkins West, was born November 9, (year unknown), somewhere around Jackson, Mississippi. Her first husband, Harry Hawkins, may have been one-half Cherokee Indian. They had two sons and a daughter: Roy R. Hawkins, born June 28, 1889, somewhere in Crawford County, Arkansas (my grandfather), Jim and Henry (or Henretta).

I would appreciate hearing from anyone who may have known any of these people. -- Ann Hawkins, 1627 Avondale, Muskogee, Oklahoma 74401.

Goodwin-Losack

I would appreciate information about my great-great grandfather Ruben Goodwin of Waller County, Texas. We know he came to Texas from Georgia just after the Civil War and married a Mattie Anna Bell or Snodgrass.

He died in Summerville, Texas, at the home of his son-in-law Charles Frederick Losack and daughter Mary Bell. If anyone has any information concerning this family and its descendants, please let us hear from you. -- Earlene Capehart, c/o Sue Jones, Rt. 5, Box 312 AA, Gilmer, Texas 75644.

McIntosh-Dold

We would appreciate any information from the descendants of Abraham Lincoln (Link) McIntosh, who was sent to Fort Madison Penitentiary in 1888 for either "horse thief" or "cattle rustler" charges.

The docket containing the minutes of the trial are no longer in the Clarke County, Iowa courthouse as of 1982, only the index for the State of Iowa vs. A.L. McIntosh. The brothers and sisters of Abraham left the area for Nebraska and Missouri shortly afterward, and no contact was made with Abraham in later years.

The Dold Packing Company of Buffalo, New York, established a branch plant in Wichita, Kansas in the late 1880s. The family ran both plants and were very influential in both areas. I am interested in any descendants of these Dold family members for exchanging family information. -- Michael Hamersky, Box 5925, Buena Park, California 90622.

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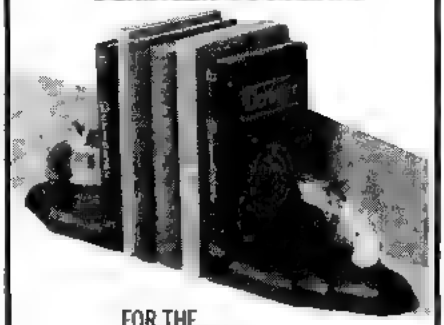

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Story by Grace Haynes Jones - Illustrations by Robert Scott

The Year Santa

A Christmas Surprise In Oklahoma

OUR family arrived at the homestead early in the spring of 1902. For the first few weeks, the four of us lived in a small tent out on the open prairie. It had no floor except the buffalo grass and the entrance was merely a canvas flap, not even securely fastened.

We chose a spot in a shallow ravine — a draw, it was called. We hoped to have some protection from the wind but soon learned that a draw is fitly named; it is like a chimney that draws the wind.

We were among the first settlers in that area and could not see another house or building from our home. There was not even a tree in sight — just buffalo grass everywhere on the rolling prairie.

For several years, my father, the Rev. Grant L. Hayes, had served as pastor of Methodist churches in southern Kansas. He began his work as a minister in 1891, under the leadership of William J. Martindale, presiding elder of the Wichita District.

Photo supplied by the author

Grace Haynes Jones and her doll

In 1901, we were living at Hazelton, a small town in Barber County, Kansas. That fall, my father drove out to Coldwater, in the Dodge City District, to assist the pastor in leading the singing at a revival meeting.

When superintendent of the Dodge City District offered my father work as a missionary in Beaver County, Oklahoma Territory, my father eagerly accepted. He had filed on a homestead a few months before, 160 acres of land almost in the center of what later became a big circuit.

Years before, the Oklahoma Panhandle was put into the Dodge City District. It so remained for many years and was still a mission field in 1902.

After we arrived at the homestead, my parents and we two children were busy getting settled. By early fall we felt well-prepared for winter, living in a snug, one-room dugout on one side of the ravine.

Ivanhoe, our country store and post office, was seven miles away. We usually got the mail once a week. If there was enough money, we could buy a few groceries.

ONE DAY in early fall, my father drove to Ivanhoe alone. I always watched for his return. When the team and buggy came over the rise, I rushed to meet him. Even before I climbed up beside him, I knew something good had happened.

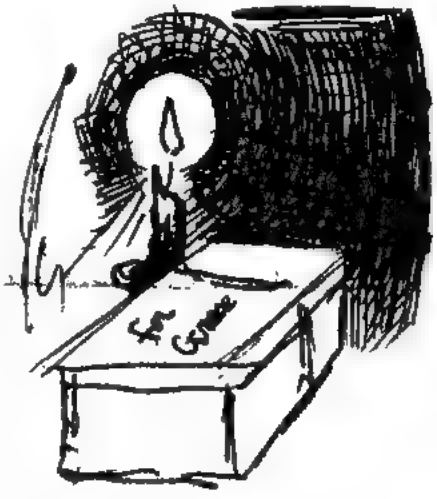
"What is it, Papa?" I asked. "Did you buy me something — some candy, maybe?"

"No, Chicken." (He often called my brother or me by that pet name.) "There wasn't enough money. But you just wait; I'll tell you all about it when we get to the house."

His voice was so cheerful, I knew it must be something special. I could hardly wait until we got home. This time, he did not stop to unhitch the team.

"Just tie them to a post," he told my brother Virgil, "then come on inside."

"Just listen to this," he said as he seated himself, then looked around at us and began to read a letter he had taken from his coat pocket.



The letter was from Yonkers, a suburb of New York City. It told us that members of the Home Missionary Society of a Methodist Church there were planning to fill a barrel to be sent to us. They wanted a description of our family and measurements of each member. They also wanted to know our clothing needs.

After discussing the subject, my mother got out the tape measure. Virgil was growing so fast that she wondered how much she should add to the measurements for him. I had not begun to "sprout up" so much.

My father promptly answered that letter and mailed it the next time we went to Ivanhoe. After that, there was nothing we could do but wait. In later years, my mother told how she secretly hoped the missionary barrel would arrive before Christmas since my parents would not be able to buy any gifts that year. The missionary voucher that came every three months did not go far in supplying our needs.

LIFE on the homestead that first year was not easy. I was only eight and too young to realize the hardships. Virgil

Came In A Wagon

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was thirteen in the fall but he did not talk much and we seldom knew what he was thinking.

How difficult it was for my mother to prepare three meals each day especially when we still lived in a tent. Living out-of-doors as we did merely increased our appetities.

We often heard my mother singing or humming a tune. This might be to dispell the blues or, as she would tell us, to express her thankfulness.

She eagerly looked forward to the time when we would have a real house, one built of sod like most of the old settlers had.

We started work on our dugout the first day we arrived on the claim but the digging went slowly. Many times, my father was called away.

That summer, hordes of people came in to settle homesteads. My father organized a circuit with several preaching stops.

My father usually took his autoharp with him even on week days. People were eager to hear him sing accompanied by this instrument. When my mother went along, they often sang duets.

One of my tasks was to herd our three cows and not let them wander away. For a time, we had no fenced pasture and we did not want our cows mixing with the range cattle. We wore out two umbrellas scaring those range cattle before we got a dog to chase them away from our home.

Another job of mine was to fill the coal hod with cow chips. It was the only fuel we had for our little Topsy stove. It cooked our food and kept us warm in winter.

At first, we could find plenty of chips on the prairie. During the summer, we sometimes took a big wagon and gathered loads of them for winter. By late fall, we had a huge pile of cow chips near the dugout. Virgil built an igloo with them.

ONE NIGHT, when we still lived in the tent, a downpour sent a stream rushing down our ravine. When my father lit the lamp, my mother exclaimed, "Grant, pick up the children quick before they drown."

Virgil and I slept on the ground which sloped slightly. We were only inches from the flood that came surging past. My parents pulled two trunks close to our big bed. We all slept crossways the rest of the night with our feet resting on the two trunks.

One afternoon, the tent blew down in a sudden gust of wind. I was the only one inside at the time but I was more scared than hurt. One night, we were all asleep when a wind storm suddenly snatched the tent away leaving us no protection. The dugout was almost finished so we moved into it right away and were thankful for its comforting shelter.

The older settlers who had been there for a number of years, lived quite well but did not have much cash. My father's salary consisted mostly of produce or anything they could supply. Few of the new settlers were much better off than we.

Since it was still open range and we had not been able to do any fencing, we planted no crops that first year. Nor did we make any attempt to raise a garden. Our cows were a valuable asset, providing much of our food.

A WIDOW, "Auntie Cox," as everyone called her, owned a sheep ranch close to the Texas line. She was generous and we never forgot her many kindnesses. One time she gave us a sack of wheat shorts for cow feed.

It was clean and my mother used it to make gems (muffins). For a whole week, we ate gems in place of bread. Virgil and I thought they were delicious, spread with butter and syrup. Syrup was made of white sugar as we happened to have plenty on hand. There was cottage cheese for dinner and supper and plenty of milk from our Jersey cows.

However, after a week on such fare, our mother said she never wanted to see another gem. When we later laughingly told of our situation, church members asked why we didn't tell them. They said they had no idea we were short of food. But, we were not starving and my parents were loath to ask for help.

In spite of hardships, we enjoyed life and were really a happy family. How contented we were that fall when we were snugly settled for the winter!

ONCE in a while, one of us would mention the missionary barrel. One day in November, my father said, "I keep thinking we'll get a letter from Yonkers. We're so far from the railroad, they should let us know in plenty of time." Our nearest railway station was at Englewood, 35 miles to the north, just over the line in Kansas.

Thanksgiving Day came and went. Still, there was no word. "We'll surely hear about it soon, now," my mother assured us. "It takes a lot of work and time to fill a barrel, and to select all the clothing and everything."

Then it was mid-December. Each day, we became more concerned. Would it never come? At last, it was the 24th of the month and all hope of having the barrel for Christmas was gone. I was not so concerned. How could I know there were to be no gifts as usual for Christmas? Our parents had always taken care of such things.

All that fall and up into early winter, the weather had been lovely — not even a hard frost at night. As the day was drawing to a close, the sun, a great red ball, slowly sank toward the horizon, casting shadows on the wild prairie.

When I came near the dugout from playing, I heard my mother moving about inside, getting supper. She was humming a tune. To hear her, no one would have guessed at her heartache knowing she had no gifts for her children on this Christmas Eve. It was hard for her to face this deprivation.

In later years she would tell me about it. However, she did not want to let on how she felt. She was a truly genuine Christian and lived her religion every day. Her strong spirit kept her going when fainter hearts would have given up in despair.

Some of the new settlers did just that. A lot of them moved back to Kansas or Missouri.

My mother emerged from the dugout. She stood there a few moments, her tiny figure framed in the open doorway. Her face was a rosy pink, flushed from working over a hot stove in close quarters.

"My, how still it is," she remarked. "It's so warm, too. You'd never think it was Christmas Eve." Then she turned back to her duties inside.

The evening chores were all done. The cows and horses quietly rested in the fenced enclosure. The chickens were slowly finding their way to the crude shelter where they roosted. Virgil's slender figure was almost hidden in the shadow as he leaned against the stack of feed.

My father stood like a towering colossus on the rim of the draw, silhouetted against the flowing sky where the sun had beamed only a few seconds before. I skipped rope from the dugout toward the corral then stopped to get my breath. Scarcely a sound could be heard as we paused those few minutes before the shades of night began to deepen.

Photo supplied by author

The doll that came by wagon.

SUDDENLY, in the stillness, we heard a far-off sound, the rattle of a wagon somewhere beyond the horizon. "Papa, do you s'pose it's coming here?" I jumped up and down in excitement.

We rarely had visitors and since we were among the earliest of the new settlers, we seldom heard the faintest sound of anyone passing by.

The Tuttle Trail which went across the west side of our claim was just over the low hill out of sight from the dugout. It led from the old cow town, Dodge City, Kansas, 90 miles due south of our place to where some pioneer towns were located in the Texas Panhandle. The Texas line was only seven miles to the south of our place. It was one of the few roads in that part of the country.

I kept up an excited chatter until my father said, "Hush! Listen! Seems to be coming closer. Can't tell for sure though. Maybe they are coming home from Englewood."

It seemed an eternity that we waited. But, as the sound grew louder, we knew it had left the trail. It was cutting toward our house. I ran to the dugout. "Mama, there's somebody coming! Hurry up! Come out here, quick!"

Our eyes were all turned in the direction of the noise. Then we saw the horses' heads appearing on the horizon and a man sitting in a lumber wagon. He was driving straight toward us across our land.

As he guided his team into the yard, we saw that he was a stranger. He stopped in front of the dugout and my father walked toward him.

"Reverend Hayes, I believe," he said, to which my father assented. "My name is Bogle. I went up to Englewood yesterday — just gettin' back. Thought I'd best fetch these here things right over bein's it's nigh Christmas. Figgered you'd want 'em tonight."

"Yes," was about all my father could say. We were all speechless with surprise. For an instant, we just stood there.

When I looked up at my mother, I knew she was overcome with joy. Anyone would have thought by the look on her face that the heavens had opened and dropped a treasure in her lap.

Bogle told of going to the depot at Englewood for some freight. The agent asked if he knew us or if we lived near him. When Bogle replied that his claim was only two or three miles from our place, the depot agent asked if he could deliver some things that had arrived that very day.

"Well, well, well," my father exclaimed.

I don't remember what else he said but I do know that he and my mother tried to express their appreciation to this stranger who, even more than he realized, was bearing precious gifts on Christmas Eve.

IN THE BACK of the wagon was a wooden barrel — a big, fat one. It was about the biggest, fattest barrel I had ever seen. But that was not all. Sitting beside it was a good-sized wooden box.

While the men were unloading and carrying these two items into the dugout, my father told about the missionary barrel we had been expecting.

"Every time we went after the mail," he said, "we hoped to receive a letter

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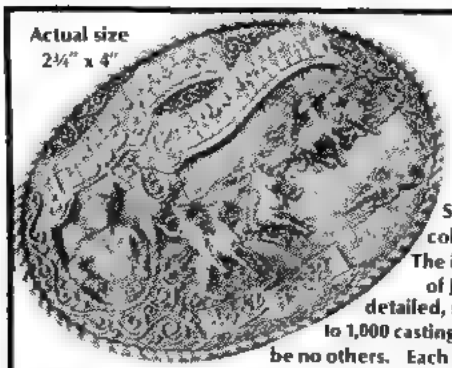

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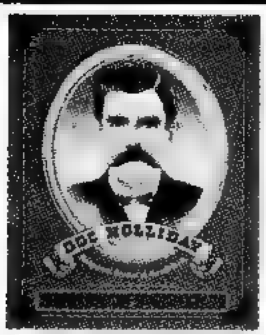

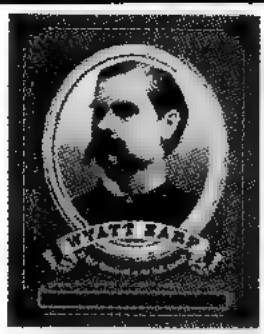

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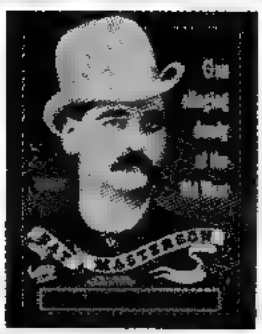

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telling us the barrel had been shipped. When we got no word, our hopes waned and finally died. But, now, you have fulfilled our expectations. I only wish I could pay you for your trouble but fifteen cents is all I have at the present."

Of course, Bogle would not have accepted pay. During the conversation, he mentioned that his wife and children had gone to spend Christmas with her folks in Kansas. "Well, now," my father said, "no one should be alone on Christmas Day. We have been invited to the Van Gieson's for Christmas Dinner. I'm sure you would be most welcome in their home. Please do come along. They live over near Kiowa Creek."

"Yes, I know where they live and I've met Mr. Van Gieson. But I hate to do that," Bogle demurred.

However, at my father's insistence, he agreed to meet us at the Van Gieson home the next day. By that time, supper was ready and though my mother urged him to eat with us, he declined, saying he needed to get home to look after things.

AFTER a hurried meal, my mother and I quickly did up the dishes while the menfolk opened the barrel and box. Soon, we were ready to begin. My father lifted things out and handed them to my mother. She held up each article and we decided who it was for.

Exclamations of surprise and pleasure burst from our lips as each thing appeared. We did not hurry and everything was enjoyed to the utmost.

There was clothing of all kinds — long underwear for each one of us, soft, fleecy, and warm. There were dresses for my mother and me and outer clothing for the others. My father received a new suit of the finest, black wool material.

I can't begin to describe everything packed in that barrel and box. My family talked about it in later years and whenever we spoke of the missionary barrel, we thought of this one. There had been others before and more came

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later but none of them could compare with the one from Yonkers, New York.

Thus, the evening passed and it was growing late. The box was empty and little was left in the barrel.

My father reached into the barrel and brought out something with a garment wrapped around it. When my mother unrolled it, I saw an oblong, pasteboard box about the size of a shoe box. She read aloud: "For Grace" — and handed it to me.

With trembling fingers, I untied the string and lifted the lid. What I saw would delight the heart of any little girl. Inside was a doll — the most beautiful doll I had ever seen. When I carefully picked her up, her blue eyes opened and she seemed to be smiling at me.

Anyone might wonder how, after all these years, I can so accurately describe that little doll and her wardrobe. The truth is I still have the doll and most of her clothes. I named her Rose Bud and she became my favorite doll. Rose Bud is one of my most prized possessions.

Now as I look back to that time so long ago, I remember it as one of the happiest Christmases of my life. Most assuredly the best Christmas of all, when we opened the missionary barrel.

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Wild Old Days

MURDERER IN THE HOUSE

By J. Dickson Black

In the early days of Arkansas statehood, tempers flared on the floor of the state legislature as often as they did in the saloons. Fist fights happened on the floor and duels were fought over words said there.

One of the most gruesom happenings was when John Wilson murdered J.J. Anthony on the floor of the house.

On the first Monday in November 1837 the Legislature was called into an extra session. The main business was real estate and state banks that had just suspended specie payment.

By the time the bills for the banks were passed, tempers were frayed. The next bill was to increase wolf scalp bounties from $1.50 to $2.50.

At the second reading of the bill an amendment was offered. The person killing the wolf could deposit the scalp with the nearest justice of the peace and get a certificate that could be used to pay his county taxes.

Then J.J. Anthony of Randolph County, who had opposed the bank bills, moved as an amendment that the certificate issued should be countersigned by the president of the Real Estate Bank. John Wilson, Speaker of the House, was president of the bank at that time.

Some of the men thought that Anthony meant it would be like a wolf signing the certificate for a wolf scalp.

Wilson declared Anthony out of order and demanded that he take his seat. Anthony refused, saying, "I am the representative for the people of Randolph County and I'm entitled to the floor. I refuse to resign it at the order of John Wilson."

Livid with rage, Wilson left his chair, saying, "Then I'll make you."

As he left the speaker's stand, he drew his knife and moved down the aisle to where Anthony was standing behind his desk.

Anthony, who was a powerfully built man over six feet tall, said, "My remarks were intended as a joke."

Wilson continued to advance. As he did, Anthony drew his knife and stepped into the aisle, awaiting the combat.

"This is not the first time he has insulted me. But it sure is the last."

Grandison D. Royston of Hempstead County raised a chair between the two men. But each grasphed it with their left hand and began cutting at each other.

Anthony slightly wounded Wilson on his left arm with his first attempt. On his second try, his knife flew out of his hand and he was left at the mercy of the enemy.

Wilson raised the chair he was still holding, and stooping down to make sure aim, he plunged his knife into Anthony's abdomen.

Anthony fell saying, "I'm a dead man," and a moment later, he was.

Wilson stood a few seconds looking at the dead man. "This is not the first time he has insulted me. But it sure is the last," he said.

When Colonel Allen Martin, sheriff of Pulaski County, arrived, he took Wilson into custody.

The body was taken away and order was restored. The House was called to order by a clerk and a resolution was introduced to expel Wilson. It was carried. Grandison Royston was chosen as the new speaker.

Wilson was indicted by the grand jury for murder in the first degree. He got a change of venue to Benton in Saline County where he was acquitted on the grounds of excusable homicide. This upset many people across the state, yet no one asked for a new trial.

After the verdict was announced, Wilson jubilantly treated the jury to drinks. Then he and his friends celebreated by noisily parading through the streets of Benton most of the night.

At the time of this fight it was listed in the newspapers of the state as being bloody baptism for the less than one-year-old capitol building.

John Wilson went back to his home in Clark County after his trial, but his neighbors let him know he was not wanted there.

Soon he moved to Pike County where he made many new friends. In fact, he made so many friends that in the election of 1842, the people of Pike County sent him back to the House of Representatives. He tried hard to regain his place as Speaker of the House, but failed.

The banks were the big issue again. In the course of debates on the banks, Wilson charged that Gibson did not represent the sentiments of his constituency in the matter.

Gibson replied to Wilson saying,

"This member from Pike County ought to be the last man on this floor to open his mouth on the subject of the Real Estate Bank.

"While the member of Pike County was speaking, I cast my eyes to a dark and ominous spot on the floor near where he is now sitting, and which is happily covered over with a carpet, but into the wood of which the blood of a murdered man has sunk so deep that nothing but the tongue of fire or the tooth of decay can obliterate it.

"And I expected to see the ghost of the murdered Anthony to rise up and rouke into silence his murderer."

Wilson, wild-eyed and livid with rage, sprang to his feet and with a bowie knife drawn, started for the man who had denounced him. Before he took two steps, he was seized by several men and forced back to his seat.

Gibson stepped into the aisle and said in a cold voice, "Let the murderer come. He will not find me an Anthony."

Pistols were heard to click all over the room as men lined up to take sides. It took the united efforts of the speaker and the doorkeeper and some men with cooler heads to restore order.

As strange as it seems, no more ever came of this almost fight on the floor. It also was the last time Wilson pulled a knife on anyone on the floor of the house

New Car in the Neighborhood

By Stillman Goucher

IN 1908, when I was five years old, my father purchased an automobile, a two-cylinder Cadillac without a top. It was a wonder for us kids. It moved forward and backward without being pushed or pulled — incomprehensible

M E. Goucher and his wife, owners of the Cadillac.

The front wheels had hard rubber tires. A crank from the left side was used to start the motor. A doctor in Alva, Oklahoma sold it to Father. The doctor had heard there was a better car for sale in Wichita, Kansas.

It was the first automobile we'd ever seen. There'd never been any in Avard (population, a few hundred). We lived three miles east of town and ten miles southeast of Alva. However, everyone had read about them and had seen pictures in magazines and newspapers

We always attended church on Sunday in Avard. The next day being Sunday would surely be a great day for the Gouchers. What would the people think? All of us were excited as we cranked up and headed for town.

My older sister Irene, myself, and younger brother Glenn sat in the back. Dad, Mother, and Leon the baby were in front. I'll never forget my mother's new hat.

It was a red letter day for all of us. I'm sure the preacher failed to divert the minds of the congregation away from the Cadillac parked outside.

"Would you take me for a ride?" everybody asked as soon as church was over

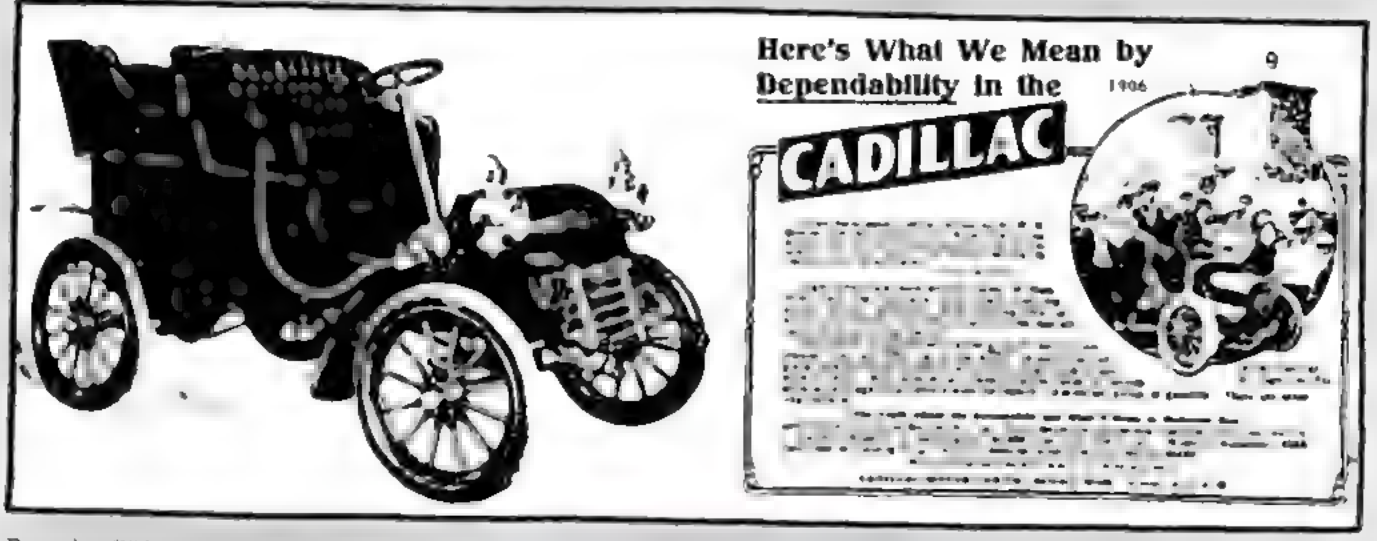
"Sure," was Dad's reply. Just what he'd hoped they'd ask! He didn't even take time out for dinner. That Sunday Dad was surely the biggest man in town — before, he'd just been an average farmer.

For more than a year, frightened horses and mules gave us considerable trouble. Only after we'd passed them several times did they decide we were harmless and cause no more trouble. Several neighbors got angry at first. Some wanted to fight. Others wanted Dad to pay damages because their horses spooked and ran through barbed wire fences which were common on both sides of the road.

The lawyers and the county judge settled that problem in Dad's favor. The judge said that if the car ran into a wagon or horses and caused damage, Dad would be liable. If they ran away because of fear or other causes but didn't come in contact with the car, its owner would not be liable for damages.

We had other problems, too. One was gasoline. It took a day to go to Alva in a wagon and get gasoline. A year or so later an oil company was formed and they delivered gasoline and kerosene, using big mules and a heavy oil wagon.

Another problem was repairs. There wasn't any agency anywhere we knew that could service the car. An order to Detroit where the car was made was



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unsatisfactory as the delivery time was so slow. The metal was poor. Breakdowns were common. Fortunately we had a good blacksmith in Avard. Ed Lord could fix almost anything. We'd never have made it through those first rough years without him.

The front wheel tires were solid rubber. That was a big mistake. I'm sure they would work fairly well on pavement or on very smooth roads, but we didn't happen to have any.

The rear tires' lives were short. When the innertube lost its air it took an hour or more to remove the tube, vulcanize it, put it back on the tire, and put the tire on the rim and use a hand pump to inflate it.

We lived in the Cherokee Outlet, which had only been settled a few years. Each farmer had 160 acres of land. Most lived in a soddie or a dugout. If there was a side-hill, the dugout was better. Took less work and lasted longer. Building barbed wire fences so crops could be planted was just as hard. Keeping up the roads was less important than making a crop.

There was some work done each year on the highways, but it wasn't enough. Each farmer was required to spend two days with two horses. He was then given a poll tax receipt and was allowed to vote. That was Oklahoma law.

Wagons and buggies made it fairly well on the unimproved roads because the wagons would all travel in the same track and a deep rut would develop. Our car had smaller wheels, so we'd drag in the middle (known as a hogback). Dad would have to pull over and start a new road anywhere he could. If I remember correctly, our average speed was about ten miles per hour. Faster on good roads, slower on bad ones.

When we purchased the car a few roads had been graded and these were good. Those were the roads the mail carrier traveled.

The longest trip we ever took in the Cadillac was to Carmen, Oklahoma, thirty-five miles east of our home. The Odd Fellows Lodge owned a grass farm on the east side of town and had built a large building where they cared for orphaned children.

The newspaper in Alva had run an advertisement that something big was coming to the Cherokee Outlet. An airplane would be in Carmen for one day and would make several flights for the entertainment of the people. Tickets

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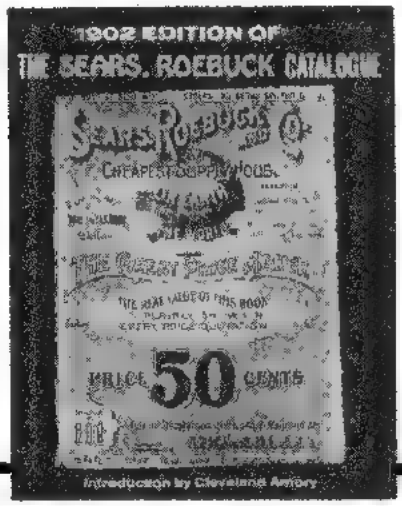

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We'd never seen an airplane. It was a must. We could be there before noon and leave three hours before dark.

Some of our neighbors decided to go in their wagons -- a day to go to Carmen, camp two nights, and return the third day. Our car would make the whole trip in one day.

We ate our lunch in Carmen and drove out to the grass pasture where the plane was located. We'd heard a lot about them and now we could see one -- that would be something else.

I remember it was very flimsy and light. It had big double wings. The brave pilot sat in an exposed position out in front of the wings, just back of the propeller. The full force of the wind hit him squarely. The engine and gas tank were behind the pilot. There was no seat for an extra rider.

We watched him make several flights high up in the air. The large crowd yelled with joy as the pilot handled the plane with perfection.

About the middle of the afternoon a big cloud came up from the west. Dad knew we were in trouble as our car was worthless in the mud. Besides, it had no top. There was a way out, but it would cost a lot of money and take a lot of time.

The Risco Railroad ran west from St. Louis to Avard where it met the Santa Fe. The passenger train came through Carmen at 10 p.m. for Avard. We took it and stayed in a hotel in Avard that night. The next morning Dad and I walked home and came back in our old buggy for the rest of the family. When the roads dried enough so that we could drive the car, we brought it home.

After a time our Cadillac wore out. Some of the neighbors were buying new and better cars. Elmer Bixler living in Waynoka sold us a White. It was a big car with four cylinders, had a top, self-starter and four forward speeds. It gave us good service for many years.

Elmer would pay nothing for our Cadillac. He said, "It's worthless." He was wrong.

It did have some value. Ed Lord offered us boys five cents per pound for brass. We took a sledge hammer and a hack saw and went to work. Soon it was a pile of junk, but the bearings were made of brass.

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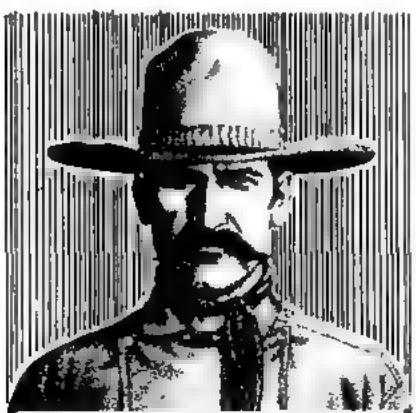

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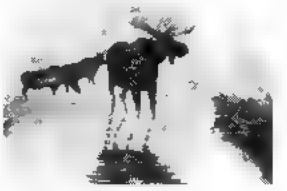

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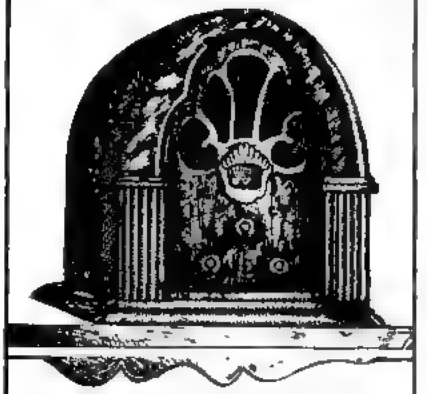

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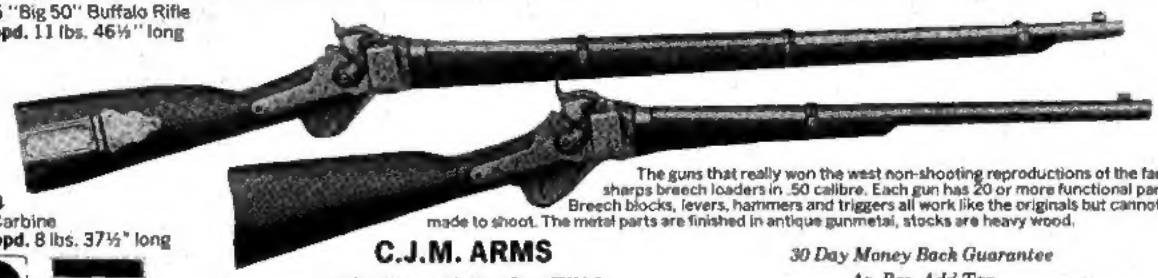

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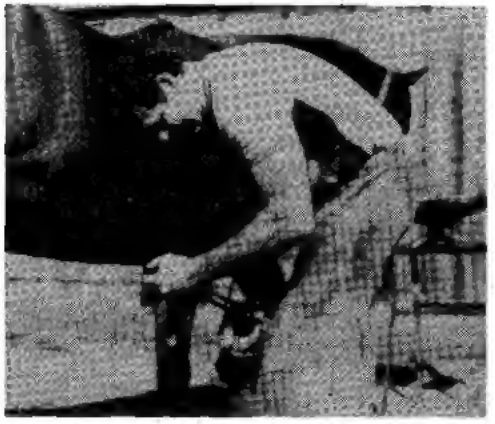
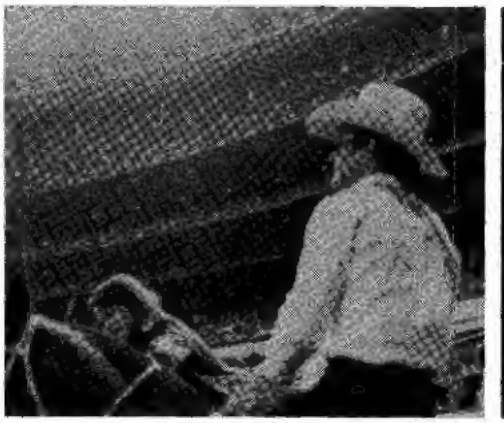


The horse is prepared against the day of battle: but safety is of the Lord.

-Proverbs 21:31



Thus saith the Lord unto you, Be not afraid nor dismayed by reason of this great multitude; for the battle is not yours, but God's.

-II Chronicles 20:15

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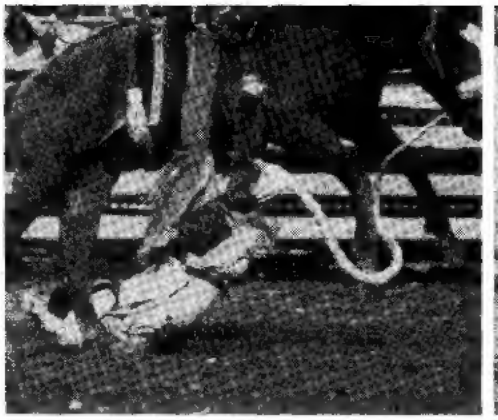
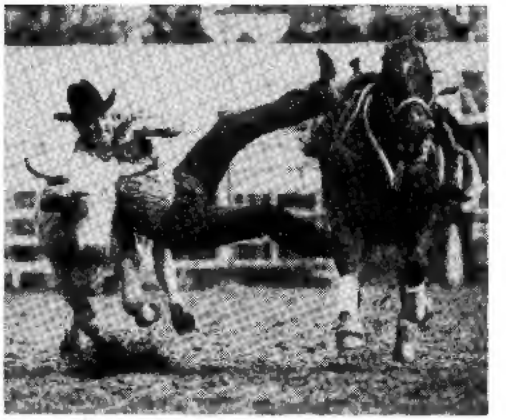
-I Corinthians 9:24



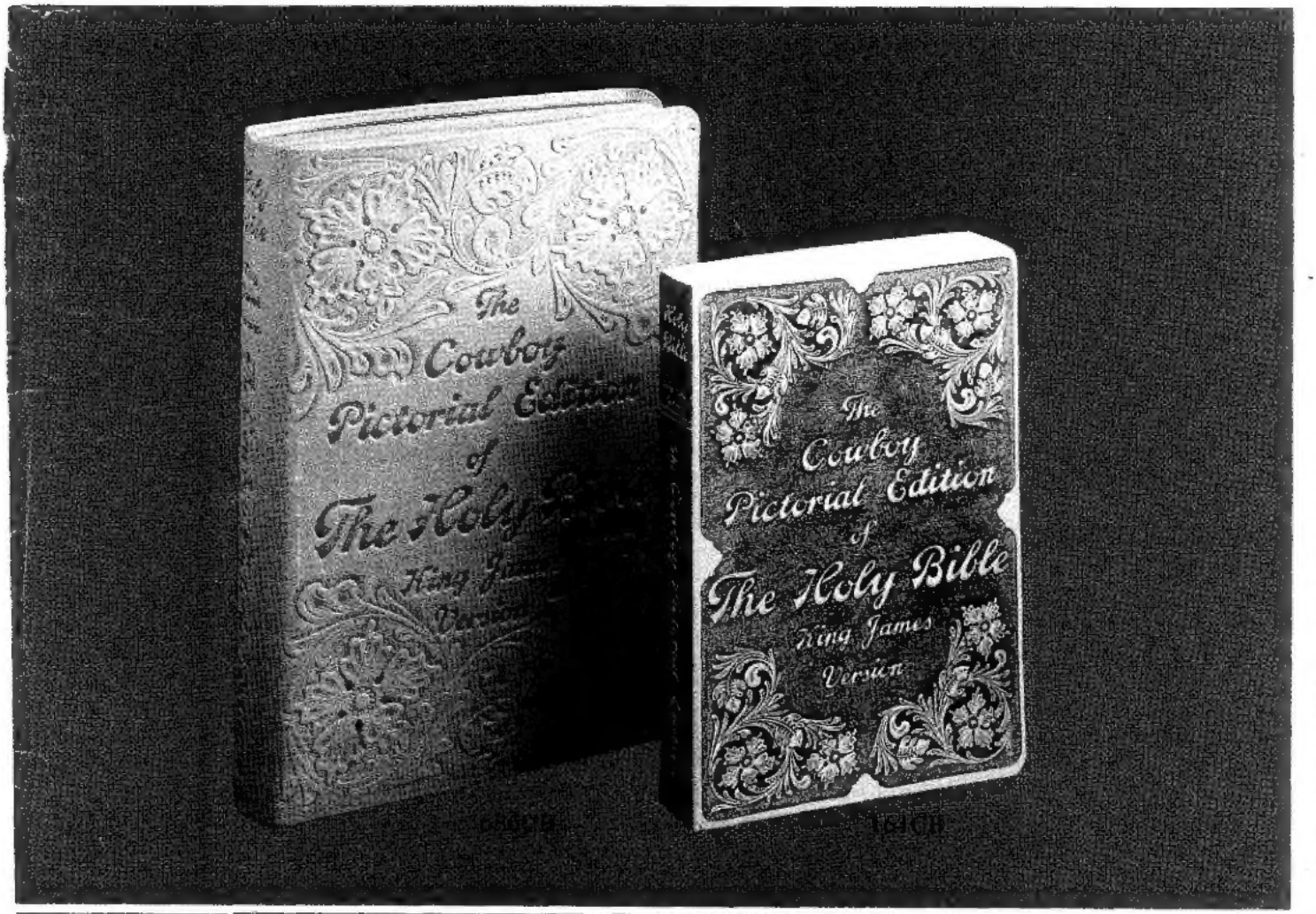
The righteous cry, and the Lord heareth, and delivereth them out of all their troubles.

-Psalm 34:17



Ye which rejoice in a thing of nought, which say, Have we not taken to us horns by our own strength?

-Amos 6:13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